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Wednesday Sport



Wednesday, April 17, 2019

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# Delaney still on payroll, could return

■ Ex-CEO on gardening leave as entire FAI board to quit by July

Fiachra Ó Clionnaith and Joe Leogane

Ex-FAI chief executive John Delaney is still on the soccer body's payroll and could technically return to a senior role, despite the entire FAI board agreeing to step down by July.

Sport Ireland confirmed Mr Delaney will continue to be paid by the FAI while on voluntary "gardening leave", after the shock news all other senior officials will leave within three months. In a dramatic day in the deepening crisis:

■ Sports Minister Shane Ross revealed that the FAI president has written to him to say all board members will step down at an annual general meeting in July, or sooner if an emergency general meeting is called.

■ The FAI's official auditors Deloitte wrote to the Companies Registration Office to raise improper accounting concerns.

■ Sport Ireland confirmed it will impose a "deep-dive" financial audit into the FAI within weeks.

■ Leo Varadkar said the Office of the Director of Corporate Enforcement could launch its own investigation.

However, despite the breakthrough moment in reforming the soccer body, more questions have been raised over the exact details. During a five-hour meeting with the Oireachtas sports committee, Sport Ireland chief executive John Treacy told Fine Gael TD Noel Rock that while Mr Delaney has chosen to "voluntarily step aside", he is still on the FAI's payroll, saying: "I believe he is still on the payroll while this [FAI-launched] investigation by Mazars is going on."

In a later exchange with Sinn Féin TD Imda Munnister, Sport Ireland chairman Kieran Mulvey said the FAI board mass resignations may not include Mr Delaney, as he is on "gardening leave" during the Mazars review, meaning he could technically return if cleared.

The ongoing questions — and further TD claims some board members may simply seek re-election at a July vote — has led to fresh demands for the FAI to clarify

the situation, with Sinn Féin TD Jonathan O'Brien telling Sport Ireland: "We now have a situation where two board members are gone, eight have indicated they are going, and the individual at the centre of all the controversy is only stepping aside."

However, in response to Irish Examiner's queries last night, an FAI spokesman said the organisation is "not saying anything".

The questions emerged after Mr Ross revealed in a bombshell statement to the Oireachtas sports committee that the entire FAI board will step down by July. In a statement kept under wraps until the meeting, Mr Ross said after demanding officials ensure "regime change" on Monday, FAI president Donal Conway wrote to him yesterday confirming the imminent resignations.

Mr Ross said the FAI's response has been "shambolic" and that "root and branch" changes are needed, including ensuring that male and female players, supporters, and grassroots representatives are involved in any future board.

Stressing that the Government will withhold funding until there is proof of change, he said this is "the beginning of the end of the old FAI".

Mr Ross's comments came after the FAI's auditor, Deloitte, told the Companies Registration Office the FAI's accounts have not been properly kept, forcing the board's hand on resignations.

They were followed by Sport Ireland announcing a "deep-dive" audit regardless of any reforms, with Mr Mulvey saying it will be "as forensic as it needs to be" as "I want no more surprises".

Speaking in the Dáil, Mr Varadkar said the ODE may launch its own FAI investigation after Fianna Fáil leader Michael Martin said "it doesn't get any more serious" than this crisis.

In the committee, Social Democrats TD Cathal Murphy said: "People who really love the sport will be embarrassed, angry, but probably not surprised, because we've known there is a problem for a very long time."

## Portrait sitting



Naoise Hennessy, 16, from Craanford, near Gorey, Co Wexford, is the overall winner of the 65th Tesco children's art competition. She also won first prize in the senior 16-18 years category for 'Lifelines', described by competition adjudicators as 'a finely detailed study that so perfectly captures the features and character of the subject'. SEE Page 7 Picture: Max Innes Photography

## Broadband plan would cost €3bn over 25 years

Daniel McConnell Political Editor

The roll-out of the National Broadband Plan would cost in the region of €3bn, the Taoiseach has said.

Leo Varadkar said the Government needed to spend "a little bit more time" before it could bring a decision to Cabinet on the matter.

He was responding to questions from Sinn Féin's Mary Lou McDonald, who pressed him on other options if the Cabinet decides not to proceed.

"Deputy McDonald asked about plans B, C and D. We are examining all of those because we want to be convinced that the business case, costs and everything else are deliverable, that it is done in accordance with the

million people. It is a huge project of huge scale. We want to do this and to do it right."

"Before we bring a decision to Cabinet, we want to ensure there is no better alternative," Mr Varadkar said.

He was responding to questions from Sinn Féin's Mary Lou McDonald, who pressed him on other options if the Cabinet decides not to proceed.

"Deputy McDonald asked about plans B, C and D. We are examining all of those because we want to be convinced that the business case, costs and everything else are deliverable, that it is done in accordance with the

public spending code, that is being technically reviewed, that international expertise and an outside panel have examined the plan, that all of the alternative ideas being floated are not better and that it cannot be done cheaper or quicker."

"We want to be satisfied with all of those things, make a Cabinet decision and bring the plan before the joint committee and Dail to allow Members to examine the facts also," he added.

Ms McDonald, however, said the whole process has been marked by delay which has generated massive frustration and impatience right across those rural homes and communities which the

Taoiseach described, and now he says he wants more time.

"The Taoiseach challenged me on using the term 'multiples of the €500m' but it is the phrase he used himself. He said it would likely cost multiples and, as such, it is his language — not mine. What we want to know now is the final cost," she said.

"It is astonishing that the head of Government would take such a laissez-faire approach to final costs."

Only one bidder remains in the process for the contract to roll out high-speed broadband to more than 500,000 homes across the country.

Fianna Fáil communi-

cations spokesman Timmy Dooley said it was extremely negligent to continue the process with just one bidder.

"The obvious outcome has arrived — the Government has backed itself into a corner and the remaining bidder is holding all the cards."

As the Taoiseach confirmed in the Dáil today, the remaining bidder, a private investment firm operating out of Boston, with limited experience in the Irish market, expects to be paid €3bn of taxpayers' money to build a €1.5bn network.

"This an appalling betrayal of taxpayers and those citizens who are still waiting for broadband."

## Harris reported to authority on collapsed Margiotta case

Cormac O'Keefe and Michael Clifford

Garda Commissioner Drew Harris has provided the Police Authority with a report into the collapsed prosecution against Garda employee Lynn Margiotta over the production of sick notes.

The case against Ms Margiotta and her brother, Tony Margiotta, collapsed last month after a judge in the Circuit Criminal Court ruled Ms Margiotta's rights to a solicitor and privacy had been breached.

The Irish Examiner yesterday highlighted a litany of unexplained aspects to the investigation into Ms Margiotta, including the circumstances of two arrests and the manner in which she and her brother were charged. Three weeks before her first arrest — by colleagues with whom she had worked — she had lodged a complaint of bullying against a Garda member.

Speaking at the AGSI conference, Mr Harris confirmed that he reported the issue to the Police Authority.

Asked whether the case

was in any way related to the bullying allegation Ms Margiotta had made, Mr Harris said he was unaware of the specifics of that complaint.

For most of the last four and a half years, she has not received an income from the force, despite being an employee since 1999.

Ms Margiotta had been accused of acquiring the sick notes by deception and her brother was accused of producing these for her.

Dr Margiotta never denied he had given her the sick notes but always maintained that there was nothing unusual in this.

The investigating Garda told the Circuit Criminal Court he believed Ms Margiotta was unwell for the periods she claimed to be ill and was not aware of the issue of whether she had acquired the sick certificates by deception.

Ms Margiotta's solicitor, Yvonne Bambray, has called for a "full and impartial" inquiry into what she said were the "unprecedented circumstances" of the case.



Lynn Margiotta, left, and her brother Tony.



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**Opinion**  
This Government, unlike any other I recall, has permanently been in the run-up to an election that has never occurred. It might not happen for some time now, either. Page 10

**Analysis**  
The Biodiversity and Councils' All-Ireland Pollinator conference put the spotlight on local authorities' vital role in protecting threatened pollinators. Page 11

## Rise in problem cocaine use

Problem cocaine use is on the rise, with cases of cocaine addiction jumping by 32% between 2016 and 2017. New figures from the Health Research Board show that problem cocaine has risen every year since 2013. The number of new cases treated has risen from 396 in 2011 to 748 in 2017.

## Room for tax cuts in budget

Finance Minister Paschal Donohoe looks set to have room for spending rises and tax cuts in his next budget, even as the Government cuts the growth outlook. Forecasts show GDP will grow this year and in 2020 by 3.9% and 3.3% respectively, cut from 4.2% and 3.6% projected in October.

## Pubs to close on Good Friday

Pubs in a Meath village have agreed to stay closed on Good Friday for the second year to mark a "long-standing tradition". The three pubs in Drumconrath will remain shut and ignore the legislation, which allows publicans to legally serve alcohol last year for the first time in 90 years.



In your paper today

News ..... 2-7

'Suspicion' not enough to convict

The evidence against Patrick Quirk adds up to no more than suspicion and is not enough to convict him of murder, his defence barrister says. **Page 5**



World ..... 8&9

Eating even moderate amounts of ham, bacon, and red meat is linked to increased bowel cancer risk, a study part-funded by Cancer Research UK has said. **Page 9**

Life/Style ..... 13

Denim bolt like a bolt from the blue

Explore new fashion horizons with a new take on denim featuring dresses, vests, and boilersuits.



News ..... 22

An investigation is underway after dozens of bags of rubbish were dumped on the road outside a notorious illegal dump site cleaned up just weeks ago.

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Notre Dame blaze

Cathedral at heart of France is

David Hughes

There is no evidence of arson in the fire that destroyed the landmark Notre Dame cathedral, according to the French public prosecutor, who said they are working on the assumption that the blaze was an accident.

Remy Heitz says the investigation will be "long and complex".

Speaking after the blaze was put out, he said five investigators are working on the probe. They will be interviewing workers from five companies that had been hired to work on renovations to the cathedral's roof, which was where the flames started.

It took nearly 400 firefighters more than nine hours to put out the fire in Notre Dame. Ashes from the blaze were scattered along the footpaths of the Seine yesterday morning.

Exhausted firefighters were still hosing the building with jets of water for much of yesterday.

Windows to the rear of the building were blackened but seemed to be intact.

Bridges on to the Île de la Cité — the island in the Seine on which the cathedral stands — were closed, but crowds of people came to view the damage and take pictures.

"It's a very sad picture," said Daniel Elie, aged 70.

"For over 800 years, this cathedral has been passed from generation to generation. Now I question what state we will pass it on to the generations after us."

Paris mayor Anne Hidalgo tweeted her thanks to the firefighters who saved Notre Dame's twin towers.

She said on Twitter: "I want to say thank you to @PompierParis, they saved the towers. I could not imagine Paris without the towers of Notre Dame."

The fire service said on Twitter that Notre Dame's structure and artworks had been saved.

Their tweet said: "The structure of the cathedral is saved, and the main works of art have been safeguarded, thanks to the combined action of the various state services committed to our side."

Experts are assessing the blackened shell of Notre Dame to establish the next steps to save what remains of the structure.

Junior interior minister Laurent Nunez announced that architects and other experts would meet at the cathedral early on Tuesday "to determine if the structure is stable, and if the firefighters can go inside to continue their work."

Politician Nicolas Dupont-Aignan praised businessman Bernard Arnault and Francois-Henri Pinault for "setting an example" by pledging millions of euro to repair the building.

Speaking to media in front of Notre Dame, he said: "All the Parisians who have gathered on the banks have demanded an inquiry to understand what happened — is it



Many details survived, including the copper statues of the apostles and evangelists which usually adorn the spire but had been taken down for restoration days before the fire. Picture: Gareth Fuller/PA



Parisians were shocked to see the 19th century landmark spire collapse. But there is relief in France too as much of the cathedral and its contents may be less damaged than



Fire sears soul of a nation where monuments are revered

Monuments are the emotional backbone of France. The blaze killed no one, yet seared the collective soul. It is the power Notre Dame had — still has — despite the charred scars on its Gothic walls.

It is not only the unique beauty of the Eiffel Tower in Paris, the palaces of Versailles, or Mont Saint-Michel proudly facing the sea that make monuments the epitome of France — it is also the sense of nationhood they represent.

When one such monument goes up in flames, the country weeps — literally in the case of another historian on national radio — even before the full extent of the damage became clear.

Across the nation, the pain was equally felt, especially because just about every region has a similar treasure to

cherish. In the eastern city of Strasbourg, which has an equally stunning cathedral made of red stone reminiscent of the glow the fire reflected on the towers of Notre Dame, the outpouring of solidarity was immediate.

"All our heart is with Paris and Notre Dame," the city said in a statement. Several EU leaders were in town, gathering to address their legislature and discuss treaties, laws, and regulations. France has had to come to the aid of its monuments before. With many churches and monuments ravaged by the 1789 revolution, Eugene Viollet-le-Duc inspired a restoration drive during the 19th century that left monuments from Notre Dame to Mont St Michel and the walled medieval city of Carcassonne the envy of the world. And at the same time,

beyond providing national pride, he helped France become one of the top tourist nations in the world, which now adds some €200bn annually to the nation's GDP. The draw of the French monuments was already there when US chronicler Mark Twain visited Notre Dame a century and a half ago. Mischievously, he wrote in *The Innocents Abroad*: "We recognised the brown old Gothic pile in a moment; it was like the pictures. We loitered through the grand aisles for an hour or two, staring up at the rich stained-glass windows embellished with blue and yellow and crimson saints and martyrs, and trying to admire the numberless great pictures in the chapels." That picture had endured through the decades since. It changed indelibly on Monday.

sudoku

basic

9	3	8	5	1	6	7	2	4
1	7	2	3	4	8	6	5	9
4	5	6	7	2	9	1	8	3
8	9	7	2	6	1	4	3	5
5	1	4	8	7	3	9	6	2
6	2	3	9	5	4	8	7	1
7	8	1	4	3	2	5	9	6
2	6	9	1	8	5	3	4	7
3	4	5	6	9	7	2	1	8

HOW TO PLAY  
Fill in the grid, ensuring that each column and row, and every 3x3 box, contains the numbers 1-9

intermediate

9	8	1	5	6	7	2	4	3
5	4	6	2	8	3	7	9	1
7	3	2	4	1	9	5	8	6
1	2	4	9	5	8	3	6	7
8	7	3	1	6	4	9	5	2
6	5	9	3	7	4	1	2	8
2	9	7	6	4	1	8	3	5
4	6	8	7	3	5	9	1	2
3	1	5	8	9	2	6	7	4

advanced

1	5	7	8	3	6	4	9	2
8	3	4	5	9	2	7	6	1
2	6	9	7	1	4	3	5	8
3	7	1	2	5	8	6	4	9
4	9	8	6	7	3	1	2	5
6	2	5	9	4	1	8	7	3
7	4	2	3	8	5	9	1	6
5	1	3	6	4	9	2	8	7
9	8	6	1	2	7	5	3	4

BASIC

	7		4	6				
3		2		9	1			
9	4	5	6	8				
5	3	9		2		7	1	
	2		9	6	5		8	
	8	6		3		9	5	2
				5	8	4	6	9
			4	7		1		5
	4		1					2

INTERMEDIATE

6			7	2		9	1	8
					6			
		7		9		6	4	
2	5		6	8				1
				1				
1				7	9		6	5
	2	8		3		1		
			4					
5	9	1		6	8			4

ADVANCED

	6			5	3	2		
2			6	1				
				8			6	5
	2	3						7
		8		7		3		
7					8		9	
5	3			9				
				2	6			8
		1	5	3			7	

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NOON

It is going to be a dry day with plenty of cloud. Ulster will be overcast for much of the day before some late sunshine in the early evening. The rest of the regions will start the day overcast, before the cloud lightens as time goes on. Moderate southeasterly winds. Max temp 13-16C (55-61F).

TONIGHT

There will be some later sunshine for Ulster and Connacht before it turns dark. There will then be light variable cloud through the night for all the regions. It will remain dry. There will be some mist for Ulster in the early hours. Moderate southeasterly winds. Min temp 7-10C (45-50F).

TOMORROW

Dry with plenty of sunshine and low clouds. Ulster will see the most cloud during the day, with heavy cloud in the morning and afternoon, before allowing for some late sunshine. The rest of the regions will have low cloud and plenty of sun. Moderate southeasterly winds. Max temp 16-19C (61-66F).

SUN AND MOON TODAY

rises	sets	rises	sets
Sun... 06:21	20:28	Moon... 17:46	06:07

MOON PHASE

Full Moon  
19 April

EXTREMES

Warmest	Beltmullet	16C (61F)
Coldest	Altachinnis Follies	5C (41F)
Wettest	Johnstown Castle	0.59 inches

EUROPE TODAY

Dry with sunny spells for most of central Europe but cloudy with showers for the Low Countries and western Germany. France and Iberia will be mostly dry and sunny but it will wet in Portugal and western Spain. Cloudy with showers for the Balkans and eastern Europe. Mostly sunny in Scandinavia.

EUROPE OUTLOOK

Tomorrow will be dry and mostly sunny for Scandinavia, France, Germany, Italy, the Low Countries and parts of eastern Europe. However, there will be showers in Iberia and the Balkans. The rest of the week looks set to be mostly dry and sunny in the north but unsettled with showers in the south.

HIGH TIMES TODAY

	time	height	time	height
Galway	04:19	4.9m	16:47	5.1m
Limerick	05:53	5.8m	18:27	6.0m
Cobh	04:32	3.9m	16:59	3.9m
Waterford	05:19	4.5m	17:48	4.5m
Dublin	10:52	4.0m	23:24	3.9m
Belfast	10:17	3.5m	22:53	3.3m

IRELAND YESTERDAY

readings at 12noon	condition	°C	°F
Belfast	drizzle	9	48
Birr	drizzle	12	54
Cork	drizzle	11	52
Dublin	cloudy	9	48
Killybegs	drizzle	11	52
Rossmore	drizzle	10	50
Shannon	drizzle	12	54
Valentia	drizzle	14	57

ATLANTIC SITUATION: Low F fills moves north, with a new low, G, forming to the south. High V remains stationary.

Information provided by MeteoGroup



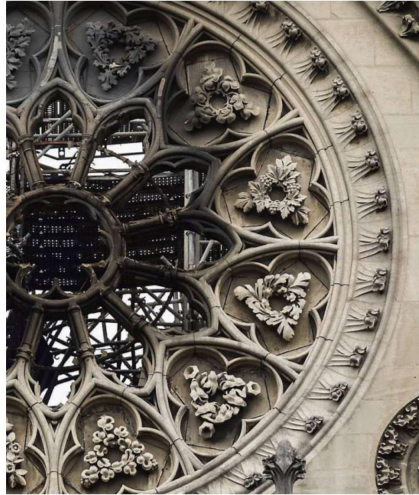
## Notre Dame blaze

# 'fragile' — but will be restored

## Support for France after devastation in Notre Dame



A Pompiers de Paris fire brigade patrol boat on the Seine beside Notre Dame, its roof and spire now gone, but much of the fabric of the building is apparently intact.  
Picture: Dan Kitwood/Getty



The cause of the blaze is as yet unknown, but officials have been saying it was possibly linked to the renovation work which has been going on.  
Picture: Dan Kitwood/Getty



A human chain of firefighters rescued priceless religious artifacts which are now stored safely in City Hall.  
Picture: Chesnot/Getty



The cathedral's interior is littered with fallen masonry and burned timbers, but many details remain intact.  
Picture: Dan Kitwood/Getty

Words of comfort and solidarity — and pledges of financial aid — have been offered to France in the hours after the fire at Notre Dame.

French billionaire Francois-Henri Pinault pledged €100m to rebuild Notre Dame as the cathedral is a "symbol of spirituality and our common humanity". The businessman and fashion mogul, who is married to Hollywood star Salma Hayek, said the money, is from his family's personal wealth and comes with no strings attached or "ownership" as to how it is used to repair Notre Dame. Fashion billionaire Bernard Arnault, chief executive of LVMH, which owns fashion houses Louis Vuitton, Christian Dior, and Marc Jacobs, said his family and the LVMH Group will donate €200m to the reconstruction fund.

French fuel company Total and cosmetics maker L'Oréal are pledging to each donate €100m to support the reconstruction of Notre Dame Cathedral.

World leaders have continued to share their messages of support following the Notre Dame fire.

European Council president Donald Tusk tweeted: "I'd like to say words of comfort and solidarity with the French nation, also as citizen of Gdansk, 90% destroyed and burnt, later rebuilt. You will also rebuild your cathedral. From Strasbourg, French capital of the EU, I call on all 28 States to take part in this task. #Notredame"

British ambassador to France Ed Llewellyn said his country stands ready to help with restoration efforts.

"At stake here is something more than just material help," he said. "The burning of the Notre Dame cathedral has again made us aware that we are bound by

something more important and more profound than treaties."

European Parliament president Antonio Tajani invited MEPs to contribute their day's salary to help finance the cathedral's reconstruction.

The Vatican's culture minister has said Notre Dame is a "living creature" that has been reborn before and will continue to be the "beating heart" of France. Cardinal Gianfranco Ravasi suggested that the Vatican, particularly its art experts at the Vatican museums, could play a role in the rebuilding.

Britain's Prince Charles said he and his family are "utterly heartbroken" at the fire and said their hearts go out to the people of France, particularly because of their own experience of the "devastating" fire at Windsor Castle in 1992.

Sheikh Ahmed al-Tayeb, the grand imam of Al-Azhar in Egypt, the Sunni Muslim world's seat of learning, has expressed sadness, describing Notre Dame as a "historic architectural masterpiece".

The Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby tweeted an image of the fire-damaged cathedral with the Bible passage: "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." (John 1:5) #Notredame.

Germany's foreign minister, Heiko Maas, said his country is prepared to help with the rebuilding of Notre Dame cathedral.

He wrote on Twitter: "Germany stands ready to do that in close friendship."

Poland's president, Andrzej Duda, has offered Poland's experience and world-class experts in the reconstruction of historic buildings as Warsaw and many other places were rebuilt from Second World War rubble.



initially feared. For instance, while one of the two pipe organs is damaged, the other is thought to be intact.  
Pictures: Diana Ayanna/AP



Francois-Henri Pinault with his wife, Hollywood star Salma Hayek, at the Cannes Film Festival in 2015. The businessman and his father, Francois, are donating €100m to help finance repairs to Notre Dame cathedral.  
Picture: Thibault Camus/AP

## 'Most precious' treasures saved by heroic Parisians

Jemma Crew and Tess de la Mare

Notre Dame's "most precious" treasures have been saved after a catastrophic fire which left Parisians reeling.

Firefighters fully extinguished the blaze, which tore through the French landmark on Monday evening, as the nation woke up to the devastation of its cultural and historic "epicentre".

Just under 400 firefighters worked for more than 12 hours through the night, battling to stop the complete destruction of the treasured facade after flames torched the roof, sending its spire crashing to the ground.

Two police officers and one firefighter were injured during the blaze, which saw teams battle to save the structure of the 850-year-old Gothic masterpiece and successfully recover some of the "most precious" artefacts it housed.

Jean-Marc Fournier, the chaplain of Paris Fire Brigade, is being hailed as a hero after taking part in the recovery of the Crown of Thorns at Notre Dame.

Speaking to reporters at the cathedral, Paris 15th district mayor Philippe Goujon said Father Fournier insisted on being allowed to enter the edifice with firefighters and played a role in the relic's rescue.

F Fournier's bravery had been noted already after the November 2016 Bataclan attack, when he tended to the injured and prayed over the dead.

Investigators believe this fire was caused by accident, possibly as a result of restoration work taking place.

French culture minister Franck Riester said some of the most valuable treasures were stored overnight in the Paris town hall and will be moved to the Louvre museum "as soon as possible". He said major paintings are not likely

to be removed until Friday, adding: "They have not been damaged but there could be some damage from the smoke so we are going to take them safely and place them in the Louvre where they will be dehumidified and they will be protected, conserved and then restored."

Paris' deputy mayor said Notre Dame's organ, one of the biggest and most famous in the world, remains intact after the fire. Emmanuel Gregoire told BFMTV that a plan to protect the cathedral's treasures was rapidly and successfully activated.

The organ dates to the 1730s and was constructed by Francois Thierry. It boasts an estimated 8,000 pipes.

The fire, which broke out as the last crowds of tourists ended visits at around 7pm local time, was finally declared to be "fully extinguished" on Tuesday morning.

Fifty people are working on a "long" and "complex" investigation into the cause, Paris prosecutor, Remy Heitz, told reporters.

Investigators will interview workers from five companies hired to work on renovations to the cathedral roof.

Speaking in front of the cathedral, junior interior minister Laurent Nunez said: "The task overnight was to bring the fire under control so it doesn't restart. The task is — now the risk of fire has been put aside — about the build-

ing, how the structure will resist."

Gabriel Plus, a spokesman for Paris firefighters, said emergency services are currently "surveying the movement of the structures and extinguishing smouldering residues".

Scores of Parisians gathered on the banks of the Seine as the sun rose on Tuesday morning to survey the damage to their beloved landmark.

As the cathedral's roof and spire blew across the banks of the river, along with blossom from Notre Dame's gardens.

A 55-year-old art historian, who gave his name as Fabrice, said it is "hard to believe that this is happening in Paris — part of ourselves has been destroyed".

"I always go for a walk in this area every day and come to see Notre Dame," he said. "It's like coming to visit an elderly parent."

Pope Francis said he is praying for Parisians "under the shock of the terrible fire".

President Michael D Higgins said: "As President of Ireland, I would like to express the feelings of solidarity of the Irish people with the people of France at the catastrophic damage to one of the most iconic buildings in Europe — a building which the people of Paris have shared with millions from all over the world, as part of a shared global cultural heritage."

"The Notre Dame Cathedral has suffered many instances of catastrophic damage over the centuries, and it is my hope that it will survive this latest terrible catastrophe."

### Editorial

This tragedy comes as the solidarity of Europe is strained in a way not seen for generations. Notre Dame's restoration carries a symbolism almost a millennium in the making.

Page 10

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**Jake Anderson, 21, was killed in a crash on Monday night.**

### Gardai appeal for dashcam footage

A man killed instantly in a crash outside Clonmel on Monday night has been named locally as Jake Anderson, aged 21. Mr Anderson, from Ferville in Clonmel, Co Tipperary, died when the car he was driving collided head-on with a truck in the townland of Ballingarrane shortly before 8pm.

The truck driver, who is not from the area, was taken by ambulance to South Tipperary General Hospital where he was treated for minor injuries. Gardai have appealed for witnesses or anyone with dashcam footage of the incident to contact them at Clonmel garda station on 052-6177640.

### Release of man in Wilk murder probe

A file is to be prepared for the DPP after a man in his 30s arrested in connection with the murder of Polish father of two, Mikolaj Wilk, was released without charge.

He was arrested at a house in Mayfield, Cork city, last week. Originally from Knocknasherry, he had moved to the UK for a period. Gardai are also to prepare files for the DPP after the arrest and release without charge of a Latvian man in his 20s and an Irish woman in her 30s. Six people have now been arrested in relation to the killing of Mikolaj Wilk at his home in Ballincollig, Co Cork, on June 20, 2018. A vicious gang warring machetes entered the house and killed him in the presence of his wife.

### Vigilance urged over wildfires

The fire service in Kerry is appealing to people not to start wildfires in the countryside and be 'vigilant'. Last weekend, firefighters and engines had to deal with several large gorge fires throughout the county. One of the incidents took place in the buffer zone area of the Killarney National Park. On Friday/Saturday morning fire crews were required to deal with gorge fires in Knocknagoss, near Lake Binn, Binn Muckross, and Moyvane. From Friday to Sunday night the service had 21 callouts, including 12 gorge fires. The cost of the huge wildfire which destroyed 200 acres at Torc Mountain in the middle of Killarney National Park over a four-night ago is still being counted.

### CE supervisors to strike over pension

Community Employment supervisors are to strike for five days in May if Pádraig Donoghue's pension scheme does not meet their trade union representatives to discuss a 2008 Labour Court recommendation concerning their right to a pension. The five-day strike, from May 13, will impact on community employment schemes across the country including those providing childcare, elderly care, and drug rehabilitation services. Supt. senior organiser, Eddie Mullins, said Mr Donoghue needed to meet with the workers' representatives "to discuss why, after more than 10 years, they still do not have a pension".

### PSNI recover ATM stolen in Antrim

A cash machine, stolen in Co Antrim yesterday morning, has been recovered by police. It is not known if the recovered ATM contained any money. A digger was used in the robbery at a shop on Market Street in Bushmills. It is the ninth such robbery in the North this year. There have been similar thefts in counties Monaghan and Cavan. On this occasion, the thieves used a stolen tractor to steal a cash machine from a bank branch around 5km outside the town. While the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) has set up a special unit to tackle such crime the thefts are continuing on a regular basis.

### €1.5m of cannabis seized from vehicle

Cannabis herb with an estimated street value of €1.5m was seized following a vehicle search in West Dublin yesterday afternoon. A 46-year-old man was arrested at the scene and was being detained last night for questioning at Lucan Garda Station. The vehicle search was on foot of an intelligence led operation, targeting organised criminality in the Dublin area, by Garda National Drugs and Organised Crime Bureau. Investigations are ongoing.

# Tribunal open to those in CervicalCheck scandal

**Juno McEnroe**  
Political Correspondent

Terms for a tribunal to hear and determine claims from women and families caught up in the CervicalCheck scandal have been agreed by government.

The inquiry will be chaired by Judge Justice Eileen Murray and will be open to women and families from the 221 group of patients

involved in the CervicalCheck audit.

Legislation was agreed at Cabinet yesterday for the tribunal, which is being set up as an alternative to the courts for dealing with cases arising from the controversy. Smart tests for women were subject to a clinical audit following their cancer diagnosis but many women, including campaigner Vicky Phelan, were not informed of

reviews or changed outcomes.

Health Minister Simon Harris said the tribunal would be open to individuals who are part of the 221 group of women involved in the CervicalCheck audit. Furthermore, individuals involved in a separate review of smear slides from 1,600 cancer cases can also apply if contrary test results are discovered.

The Department of Health said the tribunal would be open to those individuals who are identified during the "independent expert panel review currently undertaken by the Royal College of Obstetrics and Gynaecology in the UK, where this review presents findings discordant with those of the original cytology examination".

The department also said that the legislation for the

tribunal would be published on its website after consultation with the Attorney General. This is expected to take several days.

Work is also advanced, the department said, on an extra scheme for women affected by the non-disclosure of the CervicalCheck audit and this will be open for applications shortly. This is for the 221 women and their families and amounts will be

decided by an independent assessment panel.

Meanwhile, Government yesterday also agreed to new parental leave measures which were announced in last October's budget. Cabinet also agreed yesterday to begin the nomination process to appoint new presidents to the circuit and district courts. The system, to mirror the new judicial appointments rules

slowly going through the Oireachtas, will see a senior judge, the attorney general, a lay member, and others on an advisory panel pick suitable members of the judiciary and propose names to the government.

The Government said a similar process would be used as was used for the appointments of the chief justice in 2017 and the president of the court of appeal in 2018.

# Problem drug use is on the rise in Ireland

■ High levels of unemployment found among cases treated in 2017

**Conall O'Fátharta**

Problem cocaine use is on the rise, with the number of cases of cocaine addiction jumping by 32% between 2016 and 2017.

The new figures from the Health Research Board (HRB) show that, while cocaine is the third most common problem drug reported to the National Drug Treatment Registering System, its use has risen year after year.

The data shows that while problem cocaine use fell slightly between 2011 and 2013, it has risen every year since. The largest increase is from 12.3% in 2016 to 16.8% in 2017 — an increase of 32%. A total of 1,500 cases were treated for cocaine use in 2017, almost double the number of cases in 2011 (770 cases). The number of new cases treated has risen from 386 in 2011 to 748 in 2017.

The HRB data shows that men account for four in every five cases reporting, while the most common additional drugs reported among cocaine cases were alcohol (6%), cannabis (4%), and benzodiazepines (25%).

A total of 63,303 cases presented for treatment for problem drug use (excluding alcohol) between 2011 and 2017. The number of treated cases increased from 2,361 in 2011 to 9,892 in 2015, and then decreased to 8,922 in 2017.

In 2017, opiates — mainly heroin — were the most common drugs reported among cases treated for problem drug use. However, the proportion of opiate cases has fallen in recent years.

Cannabis, cocaine, and benzodiazepines were respectively the second, third, and fourth most common drugs reported by cases in treatment in 2017.

Cannabis remains the most common drug among cases entering treatment for the first time. It was the most common drug among new cases in 2017, with four in every 10 new cases were treated for problem cannabis use.

Many of these cases were young people, with the average age for new cannabis cases standing at 21 years old, compared to 32 years old for opiates and 28 years old for cocaine.

A high level of unemployment (64%, or 5,702 cases) was found among cases treated in 2017, as in previous years. The number of cases in paid employment also increased from 670 in 2011 (8% of cases) to 1,280 in 2017 (14% of cases).

"Over the recent period of economic recovery, drug treatment trends are changing and the data we analyse from the HRB information systems helps to inform health services provision and the health policy responses to problem drug use in Ireland."

## New frontiers



The New Frontiers phase 2 programme winners, Best Peer Partnership, Sean Barni from Masq; winner of Best Trade Stand, Stephen Fleming from Voxify; overall winner Dan Mulcahy from Rideshah; winner of Best Video Loretta Kennedy from Mamma Bear Foods, and winner of Best Business Plan Ryan O'Neill from LegitFit, at the QIT Rubicon Centre New Frontiers Showcase in the QIT Bishopstown Campus.

# Mother and three children made homeless

**Hoin English**

The charity's Housing charity Threshold is warning of an increase in homelessness unless legislation is introduced to amend to protect tenants.

The charity spoke out yesterday in the wake of the eviction into homelessness of a young mother, Stephanie, and her three children from the Cork city home she had been renting for nine years.

The family spent the weekend in a family hub before transferring to emergency B&B accommodation some 20km south of the city.

Threshold yesterday

described Stephanie as a "model tenant".

The charity's southern regional manager, Edel Conlon, said: "Every day we are dealing with families and individuals such as Stephanie, model tenants who pay their rent on time, have time and personal resources making a house their home and, through no fault of their own, are now homeless. Our sense is that things are worsening."

"We are extremely disappointed that the new Residential Tenancies Bill that is currently progressing through the Dail does not contain any measures to address the issue of tenancy

terminations for no reason. As long as Section 34b remains in place, we will continue to see a rise in homelessness."

Stephanie's landlord served her with a notice to quit last August. Threshold liaised with her landlord, resulting in an offer to increase her monthly rental payment to just over €1,000. However, the landlord rejected the offer and advised Stephanie to leave the property by last Thursday.

The family had no option but to spend the weekend in the family hub on the Western Road before relocating to a B&B in the county for the next two weeks.

Threshold said the issue of security of tenure is the dominating issue for tenants in the private rented sector and is the number-one query being dealt with by their advisors. It accounts for 34% of the queries dealt with in the first half of 2018 and 31% of all queries in 2017.

Ms Conlon said: "Rents are increasing more than incomes, housing assistance payments do not reflect rental trends and we are witnessing a steady decline in supply of affordable accommodation for people in low and middle incomes."

A survey in the Munster region last December discovered that the percentage

of queries on tenancy terminations in the province between January and October of 2018 increased to 40%, compared with 32% for 2017. Nationally, Threshold dealt with 4,893 tenancy termination cases last year — 1,153 of which were in the south.

Ms Conlon said Threshold has actively campaigned for the removal from the Residential Tenancies Bill of Section 34b, governing residential tenancies, because it goes against security of tenure provisions.

"Section 34b enables a landlord to give notice with no reason at the end of a Part 4 or Further Part 4 tenancy," she said.

# Government downgrades economic growth forecasts

**Daniel McConnell**  
Political Editor

Growth in the economy has slowed and will slow further, forcing the Government to revise downward its growth forecasts for this year and next.

Brexit, trade wars, and other major factors have led to a "soft patch" in the global economy which Ireland must be prepared for, the Government has warned.

Despite this, Finance Minister Paschal Donohoe says an additional 50,000 jobs are expected to be created this year and next.

Publishing the Government's latest Stability Programme Update, Mr Donohoe's department downgraded its growth forecasts for this year and next to 3.1% and 3.2% respectively, to reflect what it described as "a deterioration in key

export markets".

This is down from the 4.2% projection for 2019 and 3.6% projection for 2020 given on Budget Day.

"Since the publication of the Department of Finance's autumn forecasts on Budget Day, the external environment has become more challenging," said a statement from the Department of Finance.

At a press briefing, Mr Donohoe's chief economist, John McCarthy, said the economy reached its economic peak mid-way through last year and has moderated since.

"From an Irish perspective, the pace of growth has slowed in key export markets, with a loss of momentum particularly evident in both the euro area and the UK."

The department also highlighted a slowdown in some

domestic indicators.

Notwithstanding the slowing pace of growth, the Department of Finance still expects to run a modest budget surplus of 0.2% of gross domestic product in 2019 on foot of larger than expected corporation tax receipts in the final quarter of last year.

The Government ran a budget surplus last year for the first time since 2007, thanks in the main to record business tax receipts. The modest surplus of just €50m will be built upon this year, said the minister.

"Despite the less favourable external environment, the Irish economy remains in a strong position, and this is paying dividends in the labour market where an additional 50,000 jobs are expected that the last fiscal year," said Mr Donohoe.

"We have also confirmed



Paschal Donohoe: Extra 50,000 jobs to be created this year.

that the General Government Balance moved into surplus in 2018 for the first time since 2007.

"This reflects the hard work that has been undertaken and the right policies pursued to get us to this point."

Business: 14

## PHARMA & LIFE SCIENCE SECTORS ARE A NATIONAL SUCCESS STORY



Report in Money & Jobs on Friday, April 26

The pharma and life sciences sectors have proven themselves to be phenomenally successful cornerstones of the Irish economy over the last 20 years. Resistant to global economic turbulence, they continue to provide a major source of employment and very rewarding career options to every new generation of Irish graduates. With their economic footprint established throughout the island of Ireland, the Cork and Munster regions in particular have thrived as major pharma and life science hubs. Major international companies such as Biogen, Eli Lilly, MSD Brinny and Janssen are just a few examples of companies currently making multi-million euro investments in the Southern region as they continue to expand and grow into the future.

With this in mind the Irish Examiner are running a special pharma report in Money & Jobs focusing on the pharmaceutical, medical devices & life science sectors on Friday April 26

Online content options also available. Booking deadline April 19

Booking deadline April 19 To advertise please contact: **Kelan Canniffe** on 021 4802220 Email [kelan.canniffe@examiner.ie](mailto:kelan.canniffe@examiner.ie)

Irish Examiner



# ‘Evidence amounts to no more than suspicion’

■ Defence tells love murder trial: Not enough to convince jury of guilt

Eoin Reynolds

The evidence against Patrick Quirke amounts to no more than suspicion and is not enough to convince a jury that he killed Bobby Ryan, a defence barrister has told the love rival murder trial at the Central Criminal Court.

Bernard Condon SC also criticised the Garda investigation and told the jury they had been given substandard evidence due to failures in the investigation.

He asked them to imagine themselves as a person they love in his position, having done what he can to assist gardai and then having had everything he said interpreted in the worst possible way and be accused based on what Mary Lowry said and “a couple of internet searches”.

Mr Condon completed his eight-hour speech to the jury of six men and six women by asking them to acquit his client.

The jury will return next Tuesday to hear the judge’s charge from Justice Eileen Creedon before they begin their deliberations.

Mr Quirke, aged 50, of Breanshamore, Co Tipperary, has pleaded not guilty to the murder of Bobby Ryan, a part-time DJ known as Mr Moonlight, Mr Ryan went missing on June 3, 2011, after leaving his girlfriend Mary Lowry’s home at about

6.30am. His body was found in an underground run-off tank on the farm owned by Ms Lowry and leased by the accused at Fawnagown, Tipperary, 22 months later in April 2013. The prosecution has claimed Mr Quirke murdered Mr Ryan so he could rekindle an affair with Ms Lowry, aged 52.

Mr Condon reminded the jury that his client told gardai he was a “curious and inquisitive” person. He suggested that much of what the prosecution sought to use against him could be explained by these traits. You might say he is a “nosy parker”, Mr Condon said, adding, “nobody would like to be called nosy but we all have flaws and personality quirks but that’s not murder”.

He asked the jury to look fairly and with nuance at the evidence that Mr Quirke’s computer was used to search for information on DNA and “human body decomposition” while Mr Ryan was still a missing person. You could not, he said, convict based on those searches. Mr Quirke told gardai he was “inquisitive by nature” and Mr Condon warned the jury of the “great risk” of making a leap based on those searches alone.

He said: “If they move you, they will move you to no more than suspicion.”

They were general



Patrick Quirke, 50, of Breanshamore, Co Tipperary, at court yesterday. He has pleaded not guilty to the murder of 52-year-old Bobby Ryan at an unknown location on a date between June 3, 2011, and April 13, 2013.

searches, he said, with no specific detail relating to this case, carried out in circumstances where Bobby Ryan was missing and Mr Quirke was following the disappearance in the news. There was, Mr Condon said, reference in the news to Trace Ireland and cadaver dogs having been used to try to find him.

There is nothing in those searches to do with bodies decomposing in water or in an airtight container, which would be specific to this case. He asked the jury what weight they could place on the searches and whether they can be relied on.

Counsel further reminded the jury of Mr Quirke’s Garda interviews in which he said that if he knew where Mr Ryan’s body was and wanted to know what condition it was in all he had to do was open the tank and look.

He noted that in interview Mr Quirke had referenced his deceased son when asked about the decomposition searches. Mr Condon said it may be “macabre” but people do the strangest things on their computers.



Patrick Quirke's wife Imelda arrives at the Central Criminal Court in Dublin. Picture: Leah Farrell/RollingNews.ie

tion wants it to achieve which is to convince you with certainty that this man, who has denied, denied, denied, he actually killed Bobby Ryan.” He said there is no hard evidence and this search alone is not enough to convict.

Counsel called on the jury to start from the position that Mr Quirke is innocent and to imagine themselves as a person they love in his position having done what he can to assist gardai and having had everything he said interpreted in the worst possible way. To be accused based on what Mary Lowry said and a couple of internet searches. He concluded: “I ask you to acquit this man.”

Earlier, Mr Condon criticised the Garda investigation telling the jury they had been given substandard evidence due to failures in the investigation. He urged the jury to approach the prosecution’s claims with “great care and scepticism”.

Mr Condon told the jury that gardai should have searched Mary Lowry’s house at Fawnagown, the last place Mr Ryan was reported alive in 2011. They should also have videotaped the removal of Mr Ryan’s body from the tank in 2013. They had failed to tell a pathologist that a concrete lid covering the tank cracked, dropping debris onto the body, he said.

They should have used the Garda sub aqua team to recover the body rather than the fire brigade. They had failed, he said, to record the finding of a hair clip in the tank beside the body, something Mr Condon suggested the prosecution was trying to “airbrush” out of the case.

Dr Khalid Jaber, the former deputy State pathologist, did not attend the scene where the body was found, something that acting State pathologist Dr Michael Curtis and former Northern Ireland State pathologist Professor Jack Crane said they would have done. Dr Jaber retained only one maggot from the body to be analysed by an entomologist and did not note if it was alive or dead when he found it, Mr Condon said. He also failed to retain any of the adult flies seen on the body.

Counsel said it was “extraordinary” that gardai emptied onto the ground the contents of the vacuum tanker which Mr Quirke said he used to draw water from the tank before discovering the body.

Mr Condon asked the jury if they were satisfied gardai at the scene had maintained evidence with such “robustness” that they would have no criticism and no sleepless nights. He further asked if they could be satisfied the hair clip does not amount to a reasonable doubt.

## Teen’s bail revoked after 18 breaches

Liam Heylin

A teenager who facing charges under Operation Joyride – a Garda investigation of car thefts in Cork city – was released on more stringent bail yesterday after four nights in custody.

Jake O’Sullivan, aged 18, of 22 Fairfield Road, Farranree, Cork, had his bail revoked last Friday for 18 breaches of his bail conditions over the last few weeks.

Judge Olann Kelleher remanded the teenager in

custody from Friday until yesterday.

However, he agreed to release him when Shane Collins Dely, solicitor, renewed the bail application. Sgt Ann Marie Twomey said the gardai wanted the 11pm curfew changed to 9pm, and the three-day-a-week signing condition increased to a requirement to sign every day at Gurrabraher Garda station.

Judge Olann Kelleher amended those conditions. The case was adjourned

for a hearing at Cork District Court on June 20, with O’Sullivan on bail until then.

He faces charges of driving 11 stolen vehicles between March and November 2017.

Garda Marie Geraghty testified on Friday that since March 6, the defendant had failed to sign on at Gurrabraher Garda Station 11 times and had failed to keep his curfew to be home by 11pm each night on seven occasions.

Garda Geraghty gave evidence of gardai calling to his

house after 11pm seven times since March 20 and the accused not being home.

Mr O’Sullivan testified in his unsuccessful application for continuing bail on Friday: “I was being lazy and being stupid... Please, judge, I can guarantee there won’t be one single breach of bail.”

His bail conditions now require him to keep a 9pm-6am curfew, not contact co-defendants, not drive, abstain from alcohol, and sign in every day at Gurrabraher Garda Station.

## Son remanded over ‘cruel’ abuse of elderly mother

A mother, caring for an ageing husband confined to his bed, has told a district court judge of how a son, in his 40s, is “cruel” to her.

The accused, who lives with his parents, was brought before a court in West Cork for the breach of a safety order in a matter normally dealt with under family law.

Having been ‘on the drink’ for several days last week, the man was “extremely aggressive” towards his mother, a garda sergeant said. Due to the nature of the case, the man cannot be identified at this stage.

But his mother, distressed in court, told Judge James McNulty: “I don’t want him to give up the drink, I just want him to stop being cruel to me.”

He shouts and accuses me of stuff, calling me the most horrible names. He phoned me one time, without his number showing up, and asked: ‘Do you want to meet your mother?’ My mother was dead.”

He told the court: “My father and myself are terrified of her.” He also said: “I still talk away to the girl [his mother].”

Judge McNulty advised the man: “(They [his parents]) are entitled to be living in peace, at this time of their lives. You are living under their roof.”

The man asked for an opportunity to bring his father to court. But the judge remanded him in custody until May 3, for sentencing, adding: “You’ll have a clearer head when you come back to court.”

Pleading with the judge to avoid custody, the man asked: “Can you put it off ‘til next week?”



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Lisgoold Community Centre	Tuesday 23 April	2pm – 8pm
Knockraha Community Centre	Wednesday 24 April	2pm – 8pm
Carrigtohill Community Centre	Tuesday 30 April	6pm – 9pm
Midleton Park Hotel	Wednesday 1 May	2pm – 8pm
Cloyne Parochial Hall	Thursday 2 May	6pm – 9pm
Walter Raleigh Hotel, Youghal	Friday 3 May	2pm – 8pm

We want to hear your views and answer your questions on how we can best deliver this project. We look forward to meeting you there.



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Rialtas na hÉireann  
Government of Ireland

COMÓRADH AR ÉIRÍ  
AMACH NA CÁSCA 1916  
DOMHNACH CÁSCA, AN  
21 AIBREÁN 2019

Déanfar Éirí Amach na Cáscá 1916 a chomóradh le Searmanas Mileata ag Ard-Oifig an Phoist, Baile Átha Cliath, Dé Domhnach an 21 Aibreán 2019 ag tosú ag 12.00 meán lae.

An Uachtarán, an Taoiseach agus an Táire ar a bhfuil Freagracht maidir le Cosaint a bheidh i bhfeighil an tSearmais ar a ndéanfar paidreacha, a leifear an Forógra agus a leagfaidh an Uachtarán bláthfheasc. Cúicoidh an Searmas ag 12.30 in nuair a eitleoidh an tAerchór lasnaide.

Tá fáilte roimh an abpas chug an Searmas agus ba chóir do dhaoine a bheidh sa limistéar poiblí amhaire ar Shráid Uí Chonaill ag 11.30 am ar a dhéanaí.

COMMEMORATION TO MARK  
THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE  
1916 RISING EASTER SUNDAY,  
21 APRIL 2019

The 1916 Easter Rising will be commemorated by a military ceremony at the GPO, Dublin on Sunday 21 April 2019 commencing at 12.00 noon

The ceremony, which will be led by the President, the Taoiseach and the Minister with Responsibility for Defence, will involve prayers of remembrance, a reading of the Proclamation and the laying of a wreath by the President. The Ceremony will conclude at 12.30 pm with a flypast by the Air Corps.

Members of the public are welcome to attend the ceremony and should be in position in the public viewing areas on O’Connell Street, no later than 11.30 am.



# Mother and Baby Homes forum want full report published

Conall Ó Fátharta

Members of the Collaborative Forum on Mother and Baby Homes have expressed their disappointment at the Government's refusal to publish its full report.

The forum - which is comprised of former residents of the institutions and advocates and is separate from the Mother and Baby Homes Commission - began its work in July of last year and presented a report of almost 90

pages to children's minister Katherine Zappone in December.

However, Ms Zappone yesterday only published the recommendations of the forum - citing legal advice from the Attorney General. She said she intends to publish the full report after the Commission publishes its final report in February of next year.

The Irish Examiner understands that the decision to not publish the report has

caused a considerable degree of upset among members of the forum. The group had worked on the report and its recommendations for almost one year - with some members flying in from the US on a monthly basis for meetings.

The forum was requested to attend a meeting with Ms Zappone on April 3 where she informed them that report could not be published in full on the monthly basis for meetings.

The report is believed to be extremely critical of a number of agencies including Tusla which holds a large number of records in relation to former Mother and Baby Homes.

It is understood that one member of the forum sent a resignation email to Ms Zappone in recent days in protest at the decision not to publish the report in full.

"I have lost all faith in the forum and I couldn't agree to recommendations being released without the backing of

the report we worked so hard on," she said.

In a foreword to the recommendations, forum members stressed that only the publication of the full report can allow the basis of its recommendations to be heard and understood.

Those recommendations include a package of health and well-being measures for survivors, a memorialisation programme and a research project on language and terminology used to describe

the reality of Ireland's treatment of certain groups of mothers and children.

The forum has also called for the scrapping of the Government's planned Information and Tracing Bill and its replacement with an alternative "Identities and Personal Information Bill".

It has also called for the creation of a "one-stop-shop" to house records from across State, religious orders, county and other sources so as to enable access to identity,

personal and institutional information by any person separated from their family of origin, or detained in State-funded or regulated institutions."

Ms Zappone said that a package for health and well-being measures which will be brought to Government for approval in December.

However, the Minister stated that she will only seek to amend the current Information and Tracing Bill.

"I am pleased to receive

the comprehensive list of recommendations, and I intend to publish the full report after the Commission of investigation completes its work, subject to any further advice [sic] of the Attorney General at that time. I have sent a copy of the full report to the Commission of Investigation," she said.

Meanwhile Ms Zappone will publish a key report on burial practices at Ireland's main mother and baby homes this morning.

# Pelosi warns UK not to damage peace process

Juno McEnroe  
Political Correspondent

Speaker of the US House of Representatives Nancy Pelosi has warned British authorities there will be no US-UK trade deal after Brexit if any damage is done to the peace process in Ireland.

She told a lunch hosted by Tánaiste Simon Coveney at Iveagh House that the US was a "guarantor" of the Good Friday Agreement. She said her views and those of a US congressional delegation were made known at the "highest level" during a visit to London this week.

"Everyone we met with, we made clear. The Good Friday Agreement is not just a peace agreement, that would be justified enough for us to want to work very hard to protect. But it is something so elevated because of the numbers of hundreds of years of conflict that it resolved."

The US had a "vested" interest in Irish peace, Ms Pelosi said, adding: "We made clear to them [the British] that while we want the best possible outcome, the people have spoken, they want to leave the EU, that's a decision their country is making and has made and as they work that out, not to think for one minute that there is any comfort for them in the fact that if they leave the EU, they would quickly have a US-UK trade agreement."

"That's just not on the cards if there's any harm done to the Good Friday accord. Don't even think about that."



Nancy Pelosi, the 52nd Speaker of the US House of Representatives, says that a post-Brexit trade deal with the UK is 'just not on the cards if there's any harm done to the Good Friday accord'. She was speaking at a lunch hosted by Tánaiste Simon Coveney (foreground).

Mr Coveney said Ireland must ensure the "troubled and tragic past must come back to haunt us".

Trade between Ireland and the US was worth half a trillion dollars, he said, and Washington had put over

€540m in peace funds into helping transform the island of Ireland.

Ms Pelosi also met Taoiseach Leo Varadkar at Government Buildings last night and will today make a special address in Leinster House,

before visiting the border region tomorrow, where the threat of a no-deal Brexit has led to renewed concerns.

Picture: Julien Behal.

# Directly elected mayor's office faces opposition

Christy Parker

A number of county councillors in Waterford have expressed overwhelming opposition to a directly-elected mayor's office for the city.

Seven of the eight councillors serving the Dunganvar/Lismore municipal district have expressed overwhelming opposition to a directly elected mayor's office.

The eight-seat west Waterford district is one of three divisions in the 32-seat city and county local authority which incorporates Waterford City/Tramore (18 seats) and Comeragh (currently six seats).

The Dunganvar-Lismore has supplied past and present city and county mayors but Cllr Damien Geoghegan claimed the office would never again be filled from west Waterford under the new process.

The Government is pressing ahead with directly-elected mayors for Cork, Limerick and Waterford.

Cllr Geoghegan said any future mayor would likely derive from the city/Tramore region prior to "politics kicking in and money going in that direction".

He believed a further new proposal where "one-third of the council could pass a budget" supplemented the concerns.

"We could see deals being done between the mayor and

a small group of councillors" he predicted. Cllr Geoghegan said mayors might ultimately not enjoy the support of a full council. "It's a recipe for chaos".

Cllr James Tobin, an ex-mayor, feared the office would become "a political position" and open to undue influence. "It doesn't bear thinking about", he said.

Meanwhile, Cllr Pat Nugent had reservations the mayor's proposed €130,000 salary would emanate from "the one budget" with a consequential loss to the provision of services.

Cllr Declan Dooney, the current mayor, claimed the proposal was "a criticism of us and of our system". Favouring the current system, he observed: "I don't see any bit of Waterford falling into the Atlantic or the Suir".

He said, presently, a policy "might need a bit of tweaking or horse trading" but "democracy prevails" in the end.

Cllr Dooney also suggested "you could end up with someone unsuitable" being mayor.

Cllr Tom Cronin likewise feared "someone who hasn't a clue" gaining office and suggested returning "proper powers to local councillors" as a better priority.

And Cllr Séamus O'Donnell also opposed the move as "taking power away from the county manager".

# Lidl plan for Douglas rejected again

Joe Leogue

The planning watchdog has refused permission for the development of a Lidl supermarket in a Cork suburb for the second time, only for An Bord Pleanála to twice overturn the decision on appeal.

In 2017, the board rejected the local authority's first decision to grant planning permission after locals lodged objections over traffic, parking, and the visual impact the proposed supermarket would have on the village. The site is located in a designated Architectural Conservation Area.

Lidl lodged a second application.



A computer-generated view of the plans for Lidl for the centre of Douglas. It was ruled as being 'out of character' with the area.

It also ruled the development would prejudice the development potential of adjoining lands to the north.

Peter Horgan, a Labour local election candidate in the South East city council ward, had lodged an objection with the county council.

The area in question will come under City Hall following the boundary expansion.

"It's a great result for those who have fought this imposition in Douglas village and an eye opener for the local authority who have twice sought to implant this development against the wishes of the people," said Mr Horgan.

would be visually dominant and out of character with the pattern of existing development in the Church Street Architectural Conservation Area and would be visually out of character with the Douglas Village streetscape".

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five apartments.

But An Bord Pleanála overturned the decision.

It determined the development "by reason of its design, scale and massing, would be visually dominant and out of character with the pattern of existing development in the Church Street Architectural Conservation Area and would be visually out of character with the Douglas Village streetscape".

It also ruled the development would prejudice the development potential of adjoining lands to the north.

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# Gardaí: Policing repossessions 'no-win situation for us'

Cormac O'Keeffe  
Security Correspondent

Middle-ranking officers claim that gardai are in a "no-win situation" in policing court-ordered repossessions.

And some members have received threats as a result, the annual conference of the Association of Garda Sergeants and Inspectors (AGSI) has heard.

Supervisors want Garda HQ to devise operating guidelines to deal with the

controversial events — and train members in them.

"I'm not referring to particular incidents, but incidents are arising around the country; we have seen them in Dublin and seen them around the country in rural areas."

He said that, particularly in rural areas, members are "embedded in their community" and then asked to cover a repossession in their own community or neighbouring area and that this makes it "more difficult".

bring clarity to the roles of members.

"I'm not referring to particular incidents, but incidents are arising around the country; we have seen them in Dublin and seen them around the country in rural areas."

He said that, particularly in rural areas, members are "embedded in their community" and then asked to cover a repossession in their own community or neighbouring area and that this makes it "more difficult".

Sgt McDermott said: "Our role is only there to make sure a breach of the peace doesn't occur. We are the meat in the sandwich, we are caught in the middle, it's a no-win situation for us."

He said issues that need to be addressed include proper notice, planning, and training.

"I would have experienced members who would have received threats following a repossession of incidents," he added. "There have been other incidents as well where people have been

identified, not in our area, put up on social media and threats were put up."

Separately, a delegate from Limerick said gardai told at the last minute that their scheduled promotion is on hold are subject to "personal character assassination" and found guilty without committing wrongdoing.

Sergeant Pat Brennan, with 29 years' service and 11 years in the Garda's Support Unit, said four sergeants and one garda were told last Friday just "half an hour be

fore" the promotion list was published that they were not going to be on it. They were informed their promotion was being deferred until an active investigation by GSOC regarding them was completed.

Sgt Brennan said: "Everybody in the job would have known they were to be on that list, their families would have known that they were on that list, because they weren't on that list, everyone's wondering what did they do wrong."



## THURSDAY IN Farming

Michael O'Leary interview

'The way to make money in farming is to have a large off-farm income'





# Competition winner swaps hurley for paintbrush

Evelyn Ring

A teenager who already has her sporting skills down to a fine art is this year's overall winner of the 63th Texaco Children's Art Competition.

Naiose Hennessy from Craanford, near Gorey, Co Wexford, is already known to many as an all-Ireland medal winner and goal-scoring forward on the county's U16 camogie team.

The teenager is now enjoying new-found fame as the overall winner of the competition that attracted over 25,000 entries across Ireland.

Naiose's winning entry — *Lifelines* — is a portrait of an elderly lady, delicately reproduced using watercolour pencils throughout.

Judges were impressed with how the 16-year-old captured the features and characters of her "extremely challenging" subject.

Naiose's mother Marie said her daughter, the youngest of four children "loves art in all its forms".

The teenager, who was "overjoyed" when told she was the overall winner, attributes her success to the guidance she received from her art teacher Eugene Lynch at Coláiste Sháirde in Sarnes, Co Wicklow.

The chairman of the judging panel Gary Granville, Professor Emeritus of Education at the National College of Art and Design, said Naiose's "truly lifelike and painstakingly executed work" was worthy of a place in any public gallery.

Naiose's first prize in the senior 16-18 years age category is a cheque for €1,500 and an invitation from the International Foundation for Arts and Culture to visit Tokyo in August.

The teenager will be a special guest at the 20th International High School Arts Festival that will be held in Japan's National Art Centre, where her winning work will be exhibited.

Naiose and the 126 winners from seven categories will be presented with their prizes at a ceremony held in Johnstown Estate Hotel, Enfield, Co Meath.

The other category winners were as follows:

■ **14-15 years:** Nadia Stefanak, aged 15, Abbey Community College, Ferrybank, Co Waterford, for her work entitled 'Colour Blast'.

■ **12-13 years:** Lea Moloney, 13, St Joseph of Cluny, Killiney, Co Dublin, for her work entitled 'My Ouma'.

■ **9-11 years:** Amihan Navarro, aged 10, Guardian Angels' National School, Blackrock, Co Dublin, for a work entitled 'Little Me'.

■ **7-8 years:** Alfie Whyte, aged 8, Cloughoge Primary School, Newry, Co Armagh, for his work, 'My Brother Charlie'.

■ **6 years and younger:** Laurie Hehr, 6, Ennis Art School, Co Clare, for her work entitled 'Cow In Blue'.

■ **Young artists with special needs:** James Moonan, 13, The Art House, Drogheda, Co Louth, for his work entitled 'Old Friends'.

James Twibg, director of Ireland operations for Valero, who market fuel under the Texaco brand, said there was a "groundswell of artistic talent" to be found among Ireland's young people.

"Despite the numerous other attractions that exist today, it is extremely gratifying to know that our young people continue to show an enduring interest in art and to demonstrate their ability in the magnificent prize-winning entries," he said.

The Texaco Children's Art competition has an unbroken history dating back to 1955. Some past winners have risen to national prominence, including Graham Knutell, Robert Ballagh, Bernadette Madden, Dorothy Cross, and fashion designer Paul Costello.

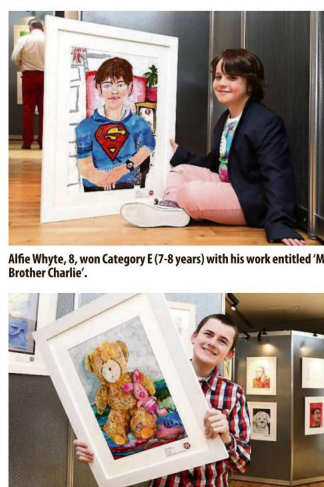


Overall winner of the Texaco Children's Art competition, Naiose Hennessy, 16, with her winning entry.

Pictures: Mac Innes



Amihan Navarro, 10, won first prize in Category D (9-11 years) for a work entitled 'Little Me'.



Alfie Whyte, 8, won Category E (7-8 years) with his work entitled 'My Brother Charlie'.

# Quinn: Board exit not enough for FAI

■ Former Ireland soccer star points to reforms at Olympic Federation

Fiachara Ó Cionnaith  
Political Correspondent

Ex-Ireland international Niall Quinn has insisted the complete removal of the FAI board is "not a silver bullet" and that more changes are needed before the soccer body is fully reformed.

Mr Quinn, who played 92 times for Ireland, scoring 21 goals, issued the call to arms as he demanded officials follow in the footsteps of the Olympic Council of Ireland's post-Rio Olympics ticket scandal reforms, amid growing speculation over his potential future role in a revamped organisation.

Speaking to reporters at a Leinster House event which took place less than 200 yards from the Oireachtas sports committee's meeting with Sport Ireland, Mr Quinn described the FAI board removal as a "green light" for change.

However, the former footballer — who, since starring in Jack Charlton and Mick McCarthy's teams, has gained a strong business reputation, due to his previous role as Sunderland chairman — said the board announcement itself is "not a silver bullet" unless other reforms take place.

The narrative now must change to rebuilding trust for all of the stakeholders, he said. Mr Quinn said "Football needs to do that right now. It is not as simple as removing the chief executive and the board. That represents an opportunity for things to happen, but there are some real hard yards ahead of the FAI."

For one of Ireland's most renowned corporate governance experts, Niamh Brennan, the FAI filing is hugely significant. "In terms of the seriousness as far as a director is concerned, it does not get more serious than that in my opinion," said Prof Brennan.

and structures of football in this country."

Mr Quinn, who played club football for Arsenal, Manchester City, and Sunderland, said that among the changes he believes are necessary are a name change of the FAI, following in the wake of the Olympic Council of Ireland changing its name to the Olympic Federation of Ireland after the 2016 Pat Hickey affair.

He said he "threw it [the name change] out there because the Olympic Federation has just come into a really good place", and he said it is a good example of how reforms can become embedded, saying: "The Government is happy, the trust has been rebuilt. What did they do? That is the only reason I looked at it and I was looking at how it has gone so well for them."

"They had a chief executive who kept their head under water, wasn't a celebrity and did some brilliant work. The executives were around it to do the exact same thing. There is a lot to like there."

Amid ongoing speculation over his potential role in any revamped organisation, Mr Quinn said the priority should be on governance and structural reforms instead of appointing a "celebrity" to a senior position.

However, he confirmed he would be happy to assist and "consult" with anyone who is genuinely seeking root-and-branch change in the organisation, insisting now is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for football in Ireland.

Mr Quinn made his comments at a Leinster House briefing titled 'The Future of Irish Football', which was organised by Labour senator Aodhán Ó Riordáin.

His call for changes mirror those of Shane Ross, the Minister for Sport, who yesterday told the Oireachtas sports committee he wants to see supporters, male and female players, and grassroots members placed on any new board as part of a major restructuring of the FAI.

Editorial: 10

# Auditors: FAI contravened Companies Act

Pádraig Hoare

Auditors Deloitte have said the FAI has contravened two sections of the Companies Act 2014.

It reported the football body on April 12 to the Companies Registration Office, the central repository of public statutory information on Irish companies and business names.

Deloitte said the FAI has not kept proper accounts.

Unlike many aspects of convoluted Irish statute

books, which require a legally-trained mind to interpret and unravel layers, Section 281 of the Companies Act is crystal clear.

"A company shall keep or cause to be kept adequate accounting records," Section 281 says.

The next section, 282, is far more in-depth but still relatively clear to a layperson in subsection 1.

"Adequate accounting records" is (a) correctly record and explain the transactions

of the company; (b) enable, at any time, the assets, liabilities, financial position and profit or loss of the company to be determined with reasonable accuracy; (c) enable the directors to ensure that any financial statements of the company, comply with the requirements of this act...; (d) enable those financial statements of the company so prepared to be audited.

Subsection 2 is also simple to interpret: "Accounting records shall be kept on a continuous and consistent basis, which is to say, the entries in them shall be made in a timely manner and be consistent from one period to the next."

Subsection 3 lays out the requirements to keep clear records, including "entries from day to day of all sums of money received and expended by the company and the matters in respect of which the receipt and expenditure takes place", and "a record of the assets and liabilities of the company".

What adds a layer of complexity to the issue is that Deloitte has filed a rarely-used form, the H4, described by the CRO as a "notification of accounts are not kept".

This form is explained in Section 392 of the Companies Act 2014 — a complex section with technical requirements.

What is significant is that if the H4 is sent to the CRO, a notice is given to the Office of the Director of Corporate Enforcement (ODCE).

The ODCE is tasked with enforcing company law and investigation of suspected offences under the Companies Act. It can also prosecute detected breaches as well as refer cases to the DPP for prosecution.

For one of Ireland's most renowned corporate governance experts, Niamh Brennan, the FAI filing is hugely significant. "In terms of the seriousness as far as a director is concerned, it does not get more serious than that in my opinion," said Prof Brennan.

# CRO informed of claim FAI failed to keep proper accounts

Joe Leogue

The beleaguered Football Association of Ireland (FAI) has failed to keep proper accounts, according to its auditors, who have reported the allegation to the body responsible for company law enforcement.

Word that auditors Deloitte has reported the FAI to the Companies Registration Office (CRO) for breaking company law emerged just hours before Sports Minister Shane Ross and officials from Sport Ireland appeared before yesterday's Oireachtas Sports Committee meeting on the ongoing controversy surrounding the FAI.

Deloitte filed the notice — called an H4 form — to the CRO last Friday, in which it alleged that, in its opinion, the FAI were in contravention of section 281 and section 282 of the Companies Act 2014.

Section 281 of the act requires that "a company shall keep or cause to be kept adequate accounting records", while Section 282 outlines the basic requirements for accounting records.

The development is the latest blow to the FAI in the past month since *The Sunday Times* reported that former CEO John Delaney

had given the association a "bridging loan" of €100,000 in April 2017.

FAI president Donal Conway last week confirmed that Deloitte was not made aware of the loan from Mr Delaney, following a question from Oireachtas committee member and Fine Gael TD Noel Rock.

Speaking yesterday after the word of Deloitte's report to the CRO was made public, Mr Rock said he understands that the matter is the subject of an investigation from the Office of the Director of Corporate Enforcement (ODCE), and the issue is something he has written to the ODCE about.

"Any breach of the Companies Act 2014 is a serious offence, with breaches potentially carrying a punishment of fines or even imprisonment as it is a category 1 or category 2 offence and underlines how serious this issue is," Mr Rock said.

"For context, in the last 12 months, only two such forms have been filed with the CRO. This is the third."

Sport Ireland president John Treacy told yesterday's committee that, on Monday night, the FAI agreed that a full audit of the association will be carried out.

"This audit will be as broad and extensive as necessary, including internal financial controls, management and general governance... all at a sufficient standard to restore funding," said Mr Treacy.

He said Sport Ireland can not say when it would lift its suspension of funding to the FAI.

"There are steps that can be taken by a board, we have all indications from their previous audits that the money was expended for the purposes for which it was given," Mr Treacy said.

"If there are some assurances — and that's a big 'if' — we do have a mechanism where we can fund on a monthly basis."

Taoiseach Leo Varadkar said there needs to be an investigation into the organisation's financial affairs.

Speaking in the Dáil, he said the Government shared the concerns of taxpayers and football supporters about how the FAI had been run.

"Investigations are necessary — investigations by Sport Ireland — into the accounts and finances of FAI and it also may be necessary for the ODCE to carry out investigations under company law," said Mr Varadkar.

"The objective must be to restore confidence in how the FAI is being run."

Sport: 2-6

Football needs to do that right now. It is not as simple as removing the chief executive and the board. That represents an opportunity for things to happen, but there are some real hard yards ahead of the FAI."

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His call for changes mirror those of Shane Ross, the Minister for Sport, who yesterday told the Oireachtas sports committee he wants to see supporters, male and female players, and grassroots members placed on any new board as part of a major restructuring of the FAI.

Editorial: 10

# Plea for emergency repairs on crumbling Fermoy weir

Sean O'Riordan

The weir on the River Blackwater in Fermoy is crumbling — and threatening the economic livelihood of a North Cork town, according to local councillors who have asked for remedial works to halt the damage.

Fianna Fáil councillor Frank O'Hughes asked assistant county manager James Fogarty about plans to repair the weir on the River Blackwater in Fermoy grounds upstream.

In the shorter term, he said, the water level could be lowered to such an extent that it is likely to see the end of the local rowing club's 100-year-old regatta.

Government departments finally agree to fund a €3m project to reinstate it.

Mr O'Hughes pleaded with council officials at a meeting of the local authority's Northern Division that some remedial works be carried out on the structure before it all falls away. He said if this is not done the results will be lowered to such an extent that it is likely to see the end of the local rowing club's 100-year-old regatta.

He said the council has committed to funding half of the cost of this itself, but despite "positive noises" from Government departments, he has still not received a

Fine Gael councillor Noel McCarthy, who lives in the town, made the same appeal.

"It's time Inland Fisheries see the importance of the weir," he said. "The council have done everything we can to speed up the work, but it's no good. We need to do something fast."

Mr Fogarty ruled out any temporary works. He said the council has sought consultants to draw up plans for its restructuring, which will cost in the region of €300,000.



The weir in Fermoy, Co Cork. Its loss could mean the end of the local rowing club's 100-year-old regatta.

Picture: Larry Cummins

firm commitment for the other half of the funding needed.

Mr Fogarty said in the meantime the club is legally prevented from going into the river and making temporary repairs.

ARMY RIFLE RANGES

**WARNING**

If you are walking in the countryside do not walk onto any of the Military Firing Ranges as you could be in

**GREAT DANGER**

at all times from unexploded shells and other dangerous ammunition

**RED FLAGS indicate LIVE FIRING**

Watch out for the warning signs

**AND TAKE CARE!**

RAONTA RAIDHFILÍ AN AIRM

**FOLÁIREAMH**

Má bhonn tú ag siúl faoin tuath, na Rionta Raidhfíle Míleata mar d'fhéadfaí a bheith i

**nDEARG-BHAOL**

Í gcoinéal de bharr sliogáin neamhfhéachta agus armóin coitiantaíte eile

**Is ionann BRATACHA DEARGA agus BEO-LÁMHACH**

Bí ag faire do na comharthaí foláirimh

**AGUS BÍ AR AIRDÉAL!**



Facebook pulls  
payments feature

Facebook is pulling a feature that allowed users to send money to friends through its Messenger app almost a year and a half after launching it in the UK.

The social network is only discontinuing its peer-to-peer service in the UK and France, but will continue to operate in the US for now.

By adding a payment card to their account, Messenger users were able to send and receive money directly from within conversation threads with contacts, encrypted and protected with bank-level security and monitoring by anti-fraud specialists.

Around 2.7bn people use Facebook, Instagram, WhatsApp or Facebook Messenger each month, but it is unclear how many made use of the payment features.

Hoax bomb scare  
closes skyscraper

A hoax bomb threat directed at the Australian Embassy in Spain prompted the evacuation of a 57-storey office tower in Madrid's business district.

Staff at the embassy received a phone call, with the security threat around midday yesterday, said a National Police spokeswoman.

She said police are investigating the call after deeming it a false alarm. The tower had been evacuated by the time police and emergency services arrived at the scene.

Torre Espacio is one of four skyscrapers dotting the northern part of the Spanish capital's skyline. It also houses the embassies of the UK, Canada and the Netherlands.

Indonesia prepares  
for crucial election

Indonesians will today go to the polls for a crucial presidential election.

The choice is between Joko Widodo, the country's first president from outside the Jakarta elite, or the charismatic but volatile Prabowo Subianto, a former special forces general from the era of authoritarian rule under the Suharto military dictatorship.

Mr Widodo dashed to Saudi Arabia to meet its king for a minor pilgrimage.

The message intended by Mr Widodo's trip to the birthplace of Islam was obvious after a campaign in which conservative opponents tried to discredit him as insufficiently Islamic.

## Bahrain court strips 138 of citizenship in mass trial

## Associated Press

A Bahraini court has issued verdicts in a mass trial, sentencing 69 people to life in prison and revoking the citizenship of 138 defendants on terrorism-related charges.

The public prosecutor's office said that 70 others were sentenced to between three and 10 years' imprisonment.

The defendants, of which

109 are in custody and 69 were tried in absentia, can appeal.

Charges against the group include forming a terrorist cell inside Bahrain with help from Iran and launching terrorist attacks. The group was labelled as "Hizbollah Bahrain".

The Europe-based Bahrain Institute for Rights and Democracy (Bird) says this

brings the total to 990 people who have been stripped of their nationality since 2012, including political activists speaking out about human rights abuses.

Based on the names of the defendants, all appear to be Shi'ite Bahrainis, said Sayed Ahmed al-Wadaei, director of advocacy at Bird.

In the years since Bahrain's 2011 Arab Spring protests, which saw tens of thousands from the country's majority Shi'ite demand greater rights from the Sunni-led monarchy, authorities have dismantled opposition political groups, imprisoned activists, forced others to exile and clamped down on independent media outlets.

Amid the crackdown, local Shi'ite militant groups have carried out numerous at-

tacks on security forces. Amnesty International said the verdict "makes a mockery of justice" and "demonstrates how Bahraini authorities are increasingly relying on revocation of nationality as a tool for repression".

In another recent mass trial in February, 167 people were convicted, primarily for participation in a non-violent sit-in, said Amnesty.

In May of last year, 115 people were stripped of their citizenship following a single trial with the sentences upheld on appeal.

Mr al-Wadaei said the Interior Ministry revoked his citizenship in 2015 on charges related to his political activism and human rights work. His daughter, born in 2017 to a Bahraini mother, was rendered stateless and is

without a passport because Bahraini law only passes citizenship through the father.

Mr al-Wadaei, who is based in London and seeking permanent residence in the UK, said other Bahrainis who have been stripped of their nationality since 2012 have mostly been Shi'ite Bahrainis. Many have been deported to Iraq and Lebanon.

Dozens  
of climate  
protesters  
arrested

■ Demonstrations could last for weeks in London, police warn

## Thomas Hornall

More than 200 people have been arrested during a second day of climate protests which have caused serious disruption in London.

Extinction Rebellion demonstrations have been taking place at Parliament Square, Waterloo Bridge, Oxford Circus and Marble Arch.

The Metropolitan Police said the protests were causing serious disruption to public transport and local businesses, with 55 schools closed and 500,000 people affected.

Motorists faced gridlocked traffic on a number of alternative routes, such as Westminster Bridge and Blackfriars Bridge.

At about 5.45pm yesterday, police said 294 people had been arrested in connection with the demonstrations.

Five people were arrested on suspicion of criminal damage following disruption outside commercial premises in Lambeth on Monday and have since been released under investigation.

The other 294 people were arrested on Waterloo Bridge on Monday night and throughout yesterday for Public Order Act offences, obstructing a highway and one for obstructing police.

The Met said it had imposed a 24-hour condition on Monday evening telling protesters to continue any demonstrations in the Marble Arch area.

The same condition was then imposed in the Oxford Circus area at 4.45pm yesterday.

The force said: "We are taking positive action against those who are choosing to ignore this condition and are continuing to



A demonstrator is arrested during the second day of an Extinction Rebellion protest in London. Inset, a protester on Waterloo Bridge.

Picture: Kirsty O'Connor/PA Wire

demonstrate in other areas across London.

"Officers are out on the ground engaging with protesters and local communities to ensure proportionate policing plans are in place."

"There is a need to ensure the right balance is struck between allowing the right to peaceful protest, while disruption to communities is kept to a minimum."

The Met warned that demonstrations are expected

to continue "throughout the coming weeks".

Extinction Rebellion said it is planning to "non-violently disrupt Tube services to highlight the emergency of ecological collapse" today if the government does not meet its members.

It added: "Participants will peacefully break the law in order to stop the Tube and then will need to be arrested."

"We sincerely apologise to all those who may suffer

as a consequence of this disruption. In any other circumstances we would never dream of disrupting the Tube but this is an emergency."

But London mayor Sadiq Khan said that while he shared the passion of the protesters about the urgent need to tackle climate change he was "extremely concerned" about plans to disrupt the London Underground. In a statement posted

on Twitter, he said: "It is absolutely crucial to get more people using public transport, as well as walking and cycling, if we are to tackle this climate emergency – and millions of Londoners depend on the underground network to get about their daily lives in our city."

Targeting public transport in this way would only damage the cause of all of us who want to tackle climate change, as well as risking

Londoners' safety and I'd implore anyone considering doing so to think again."

Extinction Rebellion said it aimed to cause more than £5,000 (£6,900) of damage so activists could be tried by a jury in Crown Court.

The campaign group described those arrested as "brave rebels".

Four activists chained and glued themselves underneath a lorry parked on Waterloo Bridge.

San Francisco may charge drivers  
to go down famous crooked street

## Olga R Rodriguez

Thousands of tourists could soon have to pay as much as \$10 (£3.80) to drive down world-famous Lombard Street in San Francisco.

City and state officials have announced a bill that would give San Francisco the authority to establish a toll and reservation system for the street that winds down a steep hill, in an effort to reduce crowds and traffic congestion.

"We must implement a system that enables both residents and visitors to enjoy the 'Crookedest Street in the World', said councillor Phil Ting, a San Francisco Democrat sponsoring the legislation.

Residents say the scenic thoroughfare feels more like an overcrowded amusement park than a neighbourhood street. They have been calling for years for officials to address the traffic jams, rubbish and trespassing by visitors.

In the summer months, an estimated 6,000 people a day visit the 183m street, creating lines of cars that stretch for blocks, clogging the Russian Hill neighbourhood.

"The cars really impact the neighbourhood because they line up, they back up, they are sitting idling," said Greg Brundage, president of the Lombard Hill Improvement Association.

Transport officials have proposed requiring visitors to make a reservation online



Thousands of tourists may soon have to pay as much as \$10 to drive down the world-famous Lombard Street if a proposal to establish a toll becomes law.

Picture: AP/ERIC RIBSEB

and pay \$5 for each vehicle. Another plan calls for online reservations and a \$10 charge on weekends and holidays.

The city needs state approval to charge people to use a public road, but it would be up to city officials to determine how and what to charge and how to use the funds.

The new toll system is not expected to be in place before 2020, officials said.

Supervisor Catherine Stefani said the fee would help sustain the reservations system and help pay for more traffic control officers, more police patrols in the area and tourism ambassadors who would make sure visitors have a good experience.

"It's a pilot programme, but it's something we must try to address the traffic congestion," Ms Stefani said. Residents built the hairpin turns on the red brick road

in 1922 because its 27-degree grade was too steep for the era's cars to climb. Neighbourhood lush gardens filled with hydrangeas and roses 30 years later.

The sweeping views and the fact that a cable car stops at the top of the street contributed to its popularity. Its worldwide fame increased after it was featured in movies and commercials and now the street gets about two million visitors a year.

## UK minister decries IS bride's legal aid bid

## Georgina Stubbs

British defence secretary Gavin Williamson has said he does not like the idea that Islamic State bride Shamima Begum "who turned her back on this country" will receive legal aid.

The 19-year-old was stripped of her British citizenship in February by the home secretary Sajid Javid after she turned up in a refugee camp in Syria ahead of the fall of the group's self-proclaimed territorial caliphate.

Mr Williamson's comments came after foreign

secretary Jeremy Hunt said the idea that the teenager who left Britain in 2015 could receive taxpayer funding to challenge the decision to remove her citizenship made him "very uncomfortable".

Asked for his thoughts on Ms Begum getting legal aid, Mr Williamson said: "Quite frankly the British people don't like it, and quite simply neither do I."

"It is something that people cannot see as to why she is getting legal aid when she turned her back on this country."

Pressed on how the legal aid would allow her to have

a trial, Mr Williamson stressed again that she made a decision to turn her back on Britain.

He added: "The home secretary has made a judgement, it was a fair judgement, and it is a shame public money is going this way."

Asked by reporters if the legal aid rules should be changed in the wake of her case, he added how "this goes to show that this is something that needs to be looked at afresh".

Legal aid is the public money which is paid to lawyers to help them lodge legal battles for clients facing a

court or tribunal hearing. It is aimed at ensuring that ordinary people have access to justice and is part of a safety net for someone who cannot afford to defend themselves.

But Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn defended Ms Begum's right to apply for legal aid, stating that whatever crimes Ms Begum was accused of, she was entitled to proper legal representation.

He said the decision by Mr Javid to strip the teenager of her citizenship was "very questionable" and that it was up to the Legal Aid Agency to decide whether she should receive assistance.

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# New inquest granted in 54-year-old murder case of girl

Sam Tobin

The brother of a 14-year-old girl who was knifed to death in the UK in the 1960s has said he is "elated" after the High Court ruled there must be a fresh inquest into her killing.

No one was ever successfully prosecuted for the murder of Elsie Frost, who was stabbed on the way home from her sister's house in Wakefield, West Yorkshire, in October 1965.

Yesterday, more than 50 years on, senior judges in London found there was "fresh evidence" which required a new inquest to be held.

Speaking outside the Royal Courts of Justice in central London after the ruling, Elsie's brother Colin Frost – who was just 10 when his sister was killed – said: "It's a massive step in the right direction, to say the very least. I don't think we really understand the enormity of it

yet. We've come a long way for this. We've fought and fought and fought. We have had lots and lots of support from different people. It just feels as if we've vindicated everything."

"I'm totally elated with what we are going to achieve for Elsie. We are going to leave a legacy after all this."

His barrister Anna Morris earlier told the court that a fresh inquest was "both necessary and desirable," adding that without one "the full

facts about the tragic death of Elsie Frost will never be recorded and the truth never known".

She said "significant investigations and inquiries advanced by the family" led to a file being put together by the Crown Prosecution Service with a view to charging a suspect.

Ms Morris added that the evidence against the suspect, Beast of Wombwell killer Peter Pickering, was "of such significance that West York-

shire Police took the unusual decision" to publicly state they "strongly believed" he was responsible for Elsie's death, shortly after he died in March last year.

The 80-year-old had been held under a hospital order for more than 45 years after admitting killing 14-year-old Shirley Boldy in Barnsley, South Yorkshire, in 1972.

Pickering died days after he was convicted of abducting and violently raping an 18-year-old woman, also

in Barnsley in 1972, three weeks before Shirley was killed.

Ms Morris said the "investigative file gathered by West Yorkshire Police remains closed... (and) will remain concealed from Elsie's family and the public record" unless a new inquest was ordered.

An inquest in 1966 had implicated Lord and Lady Spencer, but his criminal trial was thrown out of court due to lack of evidence.

Ms Morris told the court Mr Spencer "maintained until his death" that he was innocent, but he had "lived with that shadow" over him for the rest of his life.

She said it was also "necessary and desirable to correct the record and the justice to the Spencer family".

Ms Morris concluded that the death of Elsie did not just affect the Frost and Spencer families, but also "affected the whole of the city of Wakefield".



Norwegian Frode Berg.

## Russia jails border guard for spying

A Moscow court has found a Norwegian man guilty of espionage and sentenced him to 14 years in a high-security prison.

Retired Norwegian border inspector Frode Berg was arrested in Moscow in December 2017. He was accused of collecting information about Russian nuclear submarines for Norwegian intelligence. Prosecutors asserted that Berg was caught with documents he had received from an employee of a military facility who was shadowed by Russian intelligence. He denies the charges and his lawyer has called him a victim of a set-up.

For years, 63-year-old Berg had been a well-known figure in the Russian-Norwegian border area, taking an active role in cultural and humanitarian exchange projects.

**'Stalker' denies she contacted singer**  
Chris Martin's alleged stalker has not contacted the Coldplay star, a court was told. Mr Martin was granted a restraining order against Ariana Joyce, 42, after alleging she had been harassing him and endangering the safety of his family.

The judge lodged legal papers saying Ms Joyce believed she was in a "romantic relationship" with him and she was living at his home in Malibu, California. Mr Martin also alleged she wrote notes referring to death, suicide and his two children, Apple, 14, and 12-year-old Moses – whom he shares with ex-wife Gwyneth Paltrow. During a court hearing in Los Angeles, Ms Joyce denied contacting Martin or knowing his girlfriend, actress Dakota Johnson. Judge Kimberly Dotson ordered Ms Joyce to return to the same court later this month.

## 'Delilah' songwriter Les Reed dies at 83

Tom Jones and Tony Blackmore have led tributes following the death of songwriter Les Reed.

The hitmaker, known for his gruff delivery of *'Delilah'* and *'Unusual Way the Welsh sing'*, died at the age of 83. Posting a picture to Twitter, Reed wrote: "Sorry to hear the news of the passing of my friend and colleague Les Reed. Les was a gifted songwriter who was instrumental in penning many a hit, including two important songs for me, *'Delilah'* and *'Unusual'*. Les left a legacy which will live through his music. RIP Les." Reed also co-wrote Engelbert Humperdinck's *'The Last Waltz'* and served as a pianist in The John Barry Seven.

Reed was a Welshman who wrote that songwriter Les Reed has passed away. He was a very talented person."

## 3.4m Watch Game of Thrones return

The first episode of the new series of *Game of Thrones* has already been watched by 3.4m Sky Atlantic viewers. Some 192,000 enthusiasts stayed up until 2am on Monday morning to watch the first transmission of the first series of the fantasy drama. At the same time it was being broadcast for the first time in the US on HBO.

The series has now been viewed by a total of 2.7m fans who recorded the early broadcast or watched on demand, as well as those who tuned in live.

The episode aired for a second time at 9pm and that transmission has been watched by 698,000 people. After the broadcast, fans said they were relieved they could "finally come out of hiding" after making it to the series eight debut without hearing any spoilers.

## 'I can't be on the jury - I'm the judge'

A senior judge in the UK has revealed that he was called for jury service and was only excused after he threatened he would insist he was actually going to sit as the judge in the case. Judge Keith Cutler, the resident judge of Winchester and Salisbury since 2009, told a jury of his surprise when he was called upon to do his civic duty. Speaking at Salisbury Court, the senior circuit judge said that he was called upon to do his civic duty. Speaking at Salisbury Court, the senior circuit judge said that he was called upon to do his civic duty. Speaking at Salisbury Court, the senior circuit judge said that he was called upon to do his civic duty.

# Weld to challenge Trump in 2020

■ Ex-governor says 'it's time to return to the principles of Lincoln'

Associated Press

A former governor of Massachusetts has vowed the first Republican to challenge president Donald Trump for the nomination for US president in 2020.

William Weld, 73, said in announcing his candidacy that "it is time to return to the principles of Lincoln – equality, dignity and opportunity for all."

He said: "There is no greater cause on earth than to preserve what truly makes America great. I am ready to lead that fight."

Mr Weld has accused Mr Trump of leaving the nation in "grave peril" and has said his "priorities are skewed toward promotion of himself rather than for the good of the country."

While Mr Trump's overall approval ratings have been poor for much of his presidency, he remains popular with Republican voters.

The Republican National Committee (RNC) announced it issued a nonbinding resolution to declare the party's undivided support for Mr Trump.

The move by Mr Weld makes Mr Trump the first incumbent president since George HW Bush in 1992 to face a notable primary challenge.

Mr Trump's campaign has taken extraordinary steps in cementing control over the RNC and the broader nomination process as it seeks to minimise the risk of any potential challenger doing the same to the president.

His campaign recently reported raising \$30m (£26.5m) in the first quarter of this year.

Fiscally conservative but socially liberal, Mr Weld is known for an unconventional style and a long history of



Republican William Weld.

friction with the party he now seeks to lead.

Mr Weld endorsed Democrat Barack Obama over Republican nominee John McCain in 2008, later saying it was a mistake to do so, and has enjoyed a decades-long friendship with the Clintons, which began early in his career when he served alongside Hillary Clinton as a lawyer for the house judiciary committee during the Watergate proceedings.

With little in the way of organisation or outside money, and at odds with a majority of Republican voters who solidly support Mr Trump, Mr Weld's campaign will target disaffected Republicans and independents who share his disdain for the president and embrace libertarian values of small government, free trade and free markets, and personal freedom.

Despite a pledge that he would remain loyal to the Libertarian Party going forward, Mr Weld on January 17 walked into the clerk's office of the Massachusetts town where he lives and re-registered with the Republican Party, adding to speculation that he would challenge Mr Trump in the primaries.

Mr Weld has not won a political race since being re-elected governor by a landslide in his heavily Democratic state in 1994.

## Kaleidoscope of colour



A field of colourful tulips come into bloom near King's Lynn in Norfolk. The fields now grow 37 different tulip varieties and more than 20m stems are supplied to supermarkets each year.

Picture: Joe Giddens/PAN Wire

# Just one rasher of bacon a day can increase risk of cancer, say experts

Jane Kirby

Even moderate amounts of ham, bacon and red meat are linked to bowel cancer, experts in the UK have warned.

People who stick to NHS guidelines on red and processed meat consumption will lower their risk of bowel cancer by a fifth compared with those who eat very small amounts, a study published by Cancer Research UK found.

The Department of Health said that while meat is a good source of protein, vitamins and minerals, people should cut their intake of red and processed meat to about 70g per day, which is the average daily consumption in the UK.

The World Cancer Research Fund said there is strong evidence that eating processed meat (such as salami, bacon and ham) is a cause of bowel cancer, while eating a lot of red meat (such as beef, lamb or pork) also increases the risk.

For the new study, published in the *International Journal of Epidemiology*, experts examined data from



Bacon, ham and red meat are linked to bowel cancer.

475,581 people aged 40 to 69 at the start of the study and followed them for an average of 5.7 years.

During this time, 2,609 people developed bowel cancer. The study found that people consuming an average of 70g per day of red and processed meat had a 20% higher risk of bowel cancer compared with those who ate 21g per day.

For red meat only, the risk was 15% higher for people who ate 54g per day (about one thick slice of roast beef or one lamb chop) on average

compared with those who had 6g per day.

For processed meat only, the risk was 19% higher for those who had an average of 29g per day (about one rasher of bacon or a slice of ham) compared with those who had an average of 5g per day. There was some good news however, with those people having a high intake of fibre from bread and breakfast cereals lowering their risk of bowel cancer by 14%.

Around one in every 15 men and one in every 18 women will develop bowel cancer by the age of 75.

during their lifetime. Cancer Research UK's expert in diet and cancer, Professor Tim Key, who co-authored the study and is deputy director at the University of Oxford's cancer epidemiology unit, said: "Our results strongly suggest that people who eat red and processed meat four or more times a week have a higher risk of developing bowel cancer than those who eat red and processed meat less than twice a week."

"There's substantial evidence that red and processed meat are linked to bowel cancer, and the World Health Organisation classifies processed meat as carcinogenic and red meat as probably carcinogenic."

"Most previous research looked at people in the 1960s or earlier, and diets have changed significantly since then, so our study gives a more up-to-date insight that is relevant to meat consumption today."

Existing evidence points to an increased bowel cancer risk for every 50g of processed meat a person eats per day, but the new study found that risk increases at just 25g per day.

# Indian court considers call to open mosques to women

Subrat Patnaik

India's Supreme Court agreed yesterday to consider a petition from a Muslim couple to allow women into mosques, seeking to overturn a century-old ban. The court said that largely bars women from the places of worship.

Women are not allowed inside most mosques in India

although a few have separate entrances for women to go into segregated areas.

The petitioners, husband Peerzade and her husband Zuber Peerzade, said that women were allowed to enter mosques during the times of the prophet Muhammad.

"Like men, women also have the constitutional rights to offer worship ac-

cording to their belief," they said in their petition.

"There should not be any gender discrimination and women should be allowed to pray in all mosques," they said.

The court last year lifted a ban on the entry of women of menstrual age at a Hindu temple in southern India saying it was a violation of their right to worship.

The Muslim couple referred to the temple ruling, which angered conservative Hindus, as a precedent to support their call for women to be allowed to pray at mosques.

A representative of a prominent organisation of Islamic scholars, the Jamiat Ulama-e-Hind, was not immediately available for comment.

The petition comes at a sensitive time for relations between Muslims and the majority Hindu community.

Some members of prime minister Narendra Modi's Hindu nationalist ruling party have been accused of stirring communal animosity as the party seeks a second term in a staggered gen-

eral election now under way. Supreme Court judge S.A. Bobde said the court will examine the couple's request at length.

The court in 2017 ruled as unconstitutional a law which allows Muslims men to divorce their wives simply by uttering the word "talaa", which means divorce in Arabic, three times.

# Vote could keep Egypt's E-Sissi in power until 2030

Samy Magdy

Egypt's parliament has passed amendments to the constitution that could see president Abdel Fattah el-Sissi remain in power until 2030.

The vote, which sends the amendments to a national referendum, was seen by critics as another step back to authoritarianism, eight years after a pro-democracy uprising ended autocrat Hosni Mubarak's three-decade rule.

The 596-member assembly, packed with Mr el-Sissi's supporters, overwhelming gave its initial approval in February, sending it to the constitutional and legislative affairs committee to finalise the wording before

the final vote. "Today we are concluding what we started in February," speaker Ali Abdel-Al said at the beginning of the session.

In Cairo's parliament, Mr el-Sissi said he was offering to the Egyptian people a draft bill of the constitutional amendments.

The national referendum will likely take place before early May when the Muslim holy month of Ramadan starts. Since early April, the Egyptian capital has been filled with large posters and banners encouraging people to vote in favour of the changes.

In February, central Tahrir Square, where mass protests became the symbol of the 2011 anti-Mubarak uprising and of hopes for democratic

change in Egypt, the posters urged people to vote in the referendum.

"Take part, say... 'yes' for the constitutional amendments," says one banner near the pro-government Nation's Future Party.

Most of the posters were apparently funded by pro-government parties, businessmen and lawmakers.

The constitutional changes would extend a president's term in office from four to six years and allow for a maximum of two terms. But they also include a special article specific to Mr el-Sissi that extends his current second four-year term to six years and allows him to run for another six-year term in 2024, potentially



People walk past a banner supporting proposed amendments to the constitution with a poster of president Abdel Fattah el-Sissi.

extending his rule until 2030. Justifying this clause, speaker Abdel-Al said it was aimed at "political justice... and the required stability".

The February draft of the special article was different, proposing to allow Mr el-Sissi to run for two more six-

year terms after his current term expires in 2022, possibly putting him at the helm of Egypt until 2034.

No reason was given for the change, apparently made by the committee that drafted the final version of the text.

# Family pays tribute to boy killed in dog attack

Claire Hayhurst

The family of a nine-year-old boy killed in a dog attack have paid tribute to him as "a very happy, cheeky boy". Frankie Macchitella, from Plymouth, died while on holiday at Fenscroft Holiday Park in Looe, Cornwall, on Saturday.

Police were called to a caravan on the site just before 5am to reports Frankie had been attacked by a bulldog-type breed of dog.

The schoolboy, believed to have been alone with the dog, was pronounced dead at the scene.

In a statement issued through Devon and Cornwall Police, Frankie's family paid tribute to him.

"Frankie was a very happy, cheeky boy. He had a very special heart and was a fighter from the minute he was born, he was Mummy's Boy and Daddy's soldier," they said.

Frankie loved playing on his Xbox, singing and dancing, and watching movies cuddled up with his mum and riding around in Dad's car with his cool shades.

"His Nanna and Gramps love him so very much and he was their little Frankie Doodle."

A force spokesman said inquiries into the circumstances surrounding Frankie's death continue.

Hours after the incident, officers arrested a 28-year-old woman on suspicion of manslaughter and having a dog dangerously out of control. She has since been released under police investigation pending further inquiries.

The dog was seized and remains in kennels.



## Irish Examiner

Established 1841

## Notre Dame

## A rallying point for European solidarity

Not every society has symbols that tell a story far beyond their original intent; buildings or monuments so polished by time that they have transcended the political or religious objectives behind their inception. America still has none. It may have many statements of intent — the Statue of Liberty, the Lincoln Monument, or even Washington's Vietnam Veterans' Memorial Wall — but these seem national IOUs, more like works named-checking promises as yet undelivered and remote. That country, or at least today's superpower version of it, is too young to have such a layered backstory.

In an Irish context, Dublin's GPO might be offered as an example but its relevance relies on events far too recent, far too unsettled by so elevated, Gallarus Oratory, Newgrange, or the magnificent Clonmacnoise — other ancient sites too — might qualify in terms of age but their context is so narrow, so reliant on a specific achievement as to confine them to a particular strand, a limited telling of our past.

They do not, as Paris' Notre Dame did before it was razed, speak of many things to many peoples. The cathedral was a symbol of France, a symbol of Europe and, ultimately, a symbol of our world and our enduring, struggling place in it. The backdrop in millions of tourists' photographs, since photography began, it has stood on its island site since the 12th century. It withstood revolution, plagues, sieges, two world wars, and that adds to its lustre, a lustre that shines far, far brighter than the sum of its parts. This has been reflected in the reactions to its destruction, reactions that in a strange way may enhance the power of the for-now destroyed symbol. Its destruction may strengthen it. In powerful expressions of solidarity, MEPs and European Commission and European Council leaders yesterday pledged to make the rebuilding of Notre Dame a European project. Donations flooded in. Billionaire François Pinault pledged €100m. Not to be outdone, a rival Bernard Arnault, France's richest man, said he would give €200m. Vanity can have positive consequences.

These are the positive reactions, the ones that will prevail but inevitably others tried to exploit the tragedy by making connections that do not exist. Germany's far-right AfD tried to link the fire to "rising intolerance" against Christians in Europe, even though investigators believe the inferno was an accident. AfD leader Alexander Gauland's connection between the blaze and anti-Christian "attacks" in France. Even if his shameful remarks are barely a footnote in the making, they should enrage the common purpose Europe has in restoring Notre Dame. The AfD's capacity to tell a story far beyond its original intent and, as a secondary consequence highlight the abject pettiness of thought, the betrayal of collegiality and civility.

This tragedy comes as the solidarity of Europe is strained in a way not seen for generations. As any leader of a struggling cause will confirm, a rallying point can become a turning point. It may be painful to imagine the restoration of Notre Dame offers such an opportunity — but that would grossly underestimate the uplifting power of symbolism. In this case, symbolism almost a millennium in the making.

## FAI faces credibility crisis

## Use aid leverage to clear the air

Politicians understand the power of sport and how its reflected glory — never the alternative — can endear them to fans of one code or another. As early as February, 1922, well before the Civil War, government agreed a grant of £10,000 would be made so Croke Park could host what was fantastically described as a Gaelic Olympics — the Tullaitne Games. Those lessons also flow in the opposite direction. John Delaney, who has "offered to voluntarily step aside" from the FAI, learned from Charlie Haughey, who rebuilt unshakable grassroots support by his Herculean commitment to the "rubber chicken circuit". In its time, that baseline support could not save Haughey, and so it has proved for Delaney.

One question too many, one expression of hubris too many, ended his 14-year reign as FAI boss. Those questions remain an unforgivable challenge for Government. It has given almost €50m to the FAI over the past decade and unless it is to face the same questions on transparency and governance governing the FAI it must use its leverage to clear the air.

We have a long and unfortunate history of strongman administrators across various sports. They all too often seem symptomatic of the least attractive elements of our culture. It is time those who may have been a glimpse at the bottom of the gunpoint to call the tune. This obligation is made even more pressing by yesterday's announcement by auditors DeLoitte that the accounts of the FAI are not being properly kept.

## Chinese workers begin to protest

## Living to work

Every discussion about our public services is peppered with references to working conditions. Those references are invariably negative, suggesting conditions are more demanding and less rewarding than they need to be. Though hardly a valid, entirely helpful comparison, a glimpse at the working arrangements pushing China to become the world's dominant economy are as sobering as they are challenging.

After enduring aperiod of nearly 40 years, Chinese tech employees are beginning to fight notoriously long hours, known as the '996' schedule of working from 9am to 9pm, six days a week. The appropriately named Ant Financial, an Alibaba affiliate, is listed as having a '996' schedule of working at 9am, ending at 10pm, for six days a week. Jack Ma, the billionaire founder of Alibaba, one of the companies included on an exploitation blacklist, called the 996 schedules "a huge blessing" and said workers should consider it an honour rather than a burden. It is easy to dismiss this enslavement as irrelevant to us, but, as China becomes an ever more powerful force all around the world, is it wise?

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## There is a time for everything, unless you're delaying an election

Time and the exactitude of timings are often the defining elements in politics. At the start of a government, all seems possible.

If a government is being re-elected, the stress of the election and of the build-up to it can lead to a slackening in its aftermath.

The fact of being re-elected to your seat and, if fortunate, of being re-ensconced in ministerial office, dulls political energy, especially the energy required for change.

The newly-elected are naive enough not to know that what is not done in the first six months or the first year will likely never be done. Bold manoeuvres require peak political fitness and being able to face down the lack of morale in your opposition, which only comes once, in the aftermath of their defeat.

This Government, unlike any other I recall, has permanently been in the run-up to an election that has never occurred. It mightn't happen for some time now.

Delaying Brexit again, until Halloween, approaches a scary moment for Taoiseach Leo Varadkar. It is possible, but it seems unlikely, that there will be a quick fix in Britain, and things will be tied up before the European election on May 24. If so, the summer is a wide-open savannah for electioneering.

The Taoiseach could plan to be re-elected and re-ensconced before his summer holiday. The summer holiday after an election is the most relaxing in the political cycle. Even the re-elected, but defeated, know it's time to graze beside the watering hole.

If that's an attractive scenario, it is also unlikely. The only agreement that seems possible in Britain, with Labour, would split the Conservative Party. Jeremy Corbyn can circumnavigate the issues, do enough and as little to discomfort Mrs May, while holding his own coalition together, and we can let his opponents be immolated in the flames of Brexit. So while it is possible, things might change, an opening for an election here, before the summer, seems a slim hope for Varadkar. He could be brave, and not careless. I think his deeds are more cautious than his sometimes careless language, so probably not. That means waiting on the Brexit train.

That might play out in the autumn, before the latest October deadline. Powers of prophecy, as distinct from common punditry, would be required to see through that gap. Somebody always wins a bet on the Great National, but I don't feel that lucky today.

The context here, in September, is budget negotiation. Fianna Fáil has said it is willing and available to do business. Presumably, there will be carefully-chosen flights, but there is absolutely no reason to think they've agreed. Delivering a budget doesn't



## Gerard Howlin

necessarily lock the Taoiseach into government for the winter, which is exactly where Michael Martin wants him. But all the while, time is passing, and opportunities narrowing.

There is an unknowable denouement on Brexit, where, either it hasn't been agreed and there won't be another delay, or it becomes delayed again.

And there is French president Emmanuel Macron, who might not agree to any Brexit deal, but he might, and in circumstances where nothing is agreed, trigger a hard Brexit. Then, a scary moment becomes a nightmare. Managing the end-of-life process, like landing the aeroplane, is the trickiest moment in government. Your closing speech has to be your best. Pulling apart the edifice of government here, in circumstances reeking of political opportunism, won't ensure we're going to the country against the flaming backdrop of no-deal will unnerve every beast in the forest.

Staying on for the winter, because you can't get out, is a slow

incumbent government, fighting a rearguard action. It was because Fine Gael were deemed already that an unloved Fianna Fáil came back into government.

The corollary is that the relentless test that Fine Gael and Enda Kenny faced, and failed, in 2007, now awaits Fianna Fáil. Peak-Leo may have passed, but Fianna Fáil can diddies in key constituencies may be better-placed than their national poll numbers indicate, but a fundamental question remains: is Fianna Fáil an alternative government, in waiting? Because the sum of the combined parts of the two big parties is significantly less, the stakes may be smaller. But at stake is the driving seat in the government formation process thereafter.

In 2007, a beleaguered Bertie Ahern succeeded in defining Enda Kenny in the one-on-one debate.

In 2016, Fianna Fáil were so far back in the field no such debate occurred, and, instead, a jumble of front leaders slugged it out, fairly pointlessly. Martin needs the framing of a one-on-one debate

Then, they were an unpopular

sapping of political capital.

It is the considerable achievement of Fianna Fáil, and of Michael Martin, especially, to still be in existence, and seemingly now in contention. Confidence-and-supply will rank as the gold standard in mastery inactivity for years to come. I think they are in contention, but possibly unaware of, and unprepared for, the threat to come.

The longer Martin can hold Varadkar in government, the smaller the handicap he has on the day the election is called. The day after, however, he and his party will face a public inquisition, under strobe lights more intense than any they have faced since 2007.

Then, they were an unpopular

## A fundamental questions remains: is Fianna Fáil an alternative government, in-waiting?

Fianna Fáil leader Micheál Martin at The Old Hatch in Killeagh, Co. Cork, yesterday canvassing for local election candidate for Cork East James O'Connor, and proprietor Brian Barry. Picture: Tony O'Connell

with Varadkar, but he can't be certain he'll get it and Varadkar can be good on television.

Down the field, the challenge deepens. Over-confidence and an innate ability to be overweening may temper the advantage of the Government, but stretches of the Fianna Fáil front bench are conspicuously weak. That is compounded by a sense of a team that frequently doesn't exist outside the frame of the obligatory photograph. Martin has surprised his detractors with his stamina, but among his elected colleagues, there is little cohesion, and sometimes a marked absence of affection.

It was always thus to an extent, but things will be tested. Politics will be relentlessly examined. Having a go won't get you far.

All of which is to say that time generally — and Brexit and its timings, especially — influences when, and in what circumstances, we have an election.

Becoming contenders again put Fianna Fáil up for a test most of them have never faced, and seemingly don't realise is coming. For Martin, a surplus of singularity over collegiality may work in opposition, but elections require marshalling numbers across the airwaves and out of television studios and through the questioning glare of the media and public alike.

The past economic crash will be remembered, but it is Fianna Fáil say about the election being closer than national polls indicate. That is precisely the reason they are closer to the top of a red-hot poker than they realise.

## Letters to the editor

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## Landlords targeted as institutions go tax-free

"It is important to recognise the positive effects that institutional investment can have," according to Housing Minister Eoghan Murphy, who fails to see any downside to international corporations buying swathes of property in the country. Institutional investors spent more than €1.1bn on a record 2,923 Irish homes last year. Meanwhile, rents and the number of people living in rented accommodation rise. Is there a connection? What is happening here is similar to what has happened in major cities where the indigenous people were priced out. Mr Murphy told the Dáil tenants are afforded greater security and have their homes managed more professionally by an institutional landlord. Where is the evidence for this? Has he forgotten that these major corporations are being given every possible financial incentive so that, essentially, they pay no tax to our exchequer? They can afford to pay more for properties, driving prices up for everyone else.

Meanwhile, the Government demotes other property owners who carry on the legitimate business of letting their premises, enforcing a penal tax on residents who are not tenants. I remember the 1990s when tenants were encouraged to provide for their pensions. Many people took out mortgages to buy their own homes, but when the rents could not be paid by tenants who had lost jobs. Mr Murphy told the Dáil tenants are afforded greater security and have their homes managed more professionally by an institutional landlord. Where is the evidence for this? Has he forgotten that these major corporations are being given every possible financial incentive so that, essentially, they pay no tax to our exchequer? They can afford to pay more for properties, driving prices up for everyone else.

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already voting with their feet, despite the usual 33% capital gains tax on the sale of private rental properties. And we've seen nothing yet it seems. The latest proposed legislation seems to enhance the powers of the Residential Tenancies Board (RTB) to act against property owners. People need to be made aware of the draconian nature of the upcoming Residential Tenancies (Amendment) No 2 Bill, 2018. If passed, it will be even more difficult to evict rogue tenants.

Far more serious than this, however, is the proposal to extend to the RTB, powers to investigate and impose criminal convictions on property owners, even where no complaint is made against them. Please take note: criminal convictions in a parallel court system for property owners who seek only to carry on their legitimate business... and for what crimes exactly? I urge people to vehemently oppose this legislation.

During the worst housing crisis this country has ever seen, our leaders, instead of bringing stakeholders together are playing power games. Digging while Rome burns?

Maureen Moran  
The Lough  
Cork

## We need Gaeltacht government

Daniel McConnell's Irish Examiner, 13/4/2019 article about removing Irish as a core subject in education was an attack on Irish speakers dressed up as a reasonable opinion. Mr McConnell asks that we should 'remove the emotion out of it'. If only he would have done the same. His article is replete with phrases that can only be viewed as negative to the Irish language and its speakers. People have been claiming since the early 1700s that the Irish language is dying but somehow that has not happened yet. Undoubtedly, the gaeltach are in trouble but that is because the State does not provide State agencies that can serve Irish speakers. The solution is to create a gaeltacht agency that would operate only in Irish as far as possible.

In other areas, the Irish language is changing ahead. When I attended gaelscoileanna in the mid-1980s and early 90s, there was far less available in the Irish language than there is today. Since then, TG4 was set up, the Official Languages Act was passed, and we've seen more and more official languages and various third-level colleges have Scoilmeanna Cónaite, where Irish-speaking students learn in Irish.

Regarding the claim that it is waste for Teachtal Dála to speak in Irish and English, the reason for this is that the RTB, powers to investigate and impose criminal convictions on property owners, even where no complaint is made against them. Please take note: criminal convictions in a parallel court system for property owners who seek only to carry on their legitimate business... and for what crimes exactly? I urge people to vehemently oppose this legislation.

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## Divorce promotes shattered homes

In the upcoming referendum, we will be asked to facilitate more liberal divorce laws. We already have too many victims of shattered households. Those of us who are involved with homeless services, youth support, or social care like St Vincent de Paul, are all too aware of the heartache and confusion caused by divorce and the fragmentation of families.

Every marriage worthy of the name has to try to withstand the storms of life, more than just a fair-weather relationship. My family and I will be voting no.

Eamon Fitzpatrick  
Strandhill Rd  
Sligo

## FAI have strange take on democracy

As a taxpayer, I thoroughly resent any of my tax euros being spent on an organisation like the FAI, whose chief officials are so arrogant that they smugly refuse to engage in public with our elected representatives. Obviously, their notion of democracy is skewed towards the former Eastern Bloc type: "We do what we like when we like, but you pay the bills." Well, I, for one, am tired of seeing my money squandered time and time again and little more than token action taken. I'll be looking very closely indeed at my ballot paper come the next election — and others will, too. I hope if nothing decisive is done in this case... and without the usual "Irish anaesthetic" either.

Eddie Lennihan  
Ennis  
Co. Clare

## Mayors would be there to take blame

So, Mr Varadkar says "elected mayors will have more fundraising clout and will be accountable to the public" (*Irish Examiner*, 15/04). This is political waffle for "he can raise more taxes, for the funds Leo won't give, and he (the mayor) plus his two advisers will be blamed". With a juicy budget of €450,000 pa (about as much as an FAI President's salary and expenses) this will be another burden on the Irish citizen to absorb. And this from the man who was NOT elected by the majority of Fine Gael members! I stopped believing in the tooth fairy on my last visit to the dentist but haven't lost my marbles completely, as thankfully, the Easter Bunny is due at the weekend.

Sean Kelly  
Tramore  
Waterford

## Defence forces are not treated fairly

With reference to recent articles and editorials on Defence Forces pay and

conditions, I would like to comment also. If your readers, of a certain age, would cast their minds back to the era when the IRA was in control, the then government of Jack Lynch found itself with a rundown armed forces due to having poor equipment, older vehicles, broken out of the North, a transport system with old vehicles and generally poor military supplies. The forces had to go to the States to get buses to supplement the poor army trucks to get troops to the border with hospital, military and relief supplies.

This was due to poor wages and living conditions, and generally treating the Armed Forces with contempt. The forces had no union so couldn't mount any campaign which was forbidden under Defence Force regulations anyway! All this in the face of the great peacekeeping operations for the UN that had been undertaken earlier in the Congo.

So now we have a repeat, if not worse! The men and women of our forces have again and again gone to superhuman lengths to answer the call of the Irish citizen to go to the front on many occasions that they have a big grievance with pay and conditions with little or no serious attempt to rectify the matter. The minister of state Paul Kehoe seems as redundant as his predecessor in the role of Minister of State in spite of the glaring downturn in numbers in the army, navy and air corps. Time for the Taoiseach to take this in hand before it becomes another catastrophe or worse than the time of Jack Lynch's government! The old saying "you never miss the water 'til the wells run dry", comes to mind.

Joe Standen  
Dunelm  
Co. Cork

## Just acting?

A radio commentator said in regard to US president Donald Trump's response to his knowledge of WikiLeaks that he might be 'acting dumb'. Acting?

Dennis Fitzgerald  
Lindale St Box Hill  
Melbourne  
Australia



The annual Biodiversity and Councils' All-Ireland Pollinator conference put the spotlight on local authorities' vital role in protecting threatened pollinators, writes **Ellie O'Byrne**



# Local authorities: busy enough in the battle for Ireland's bees?

ONE-THIRD of Ireland's bee species now face extinction. Habitat loss, pesticide use, and dwindling biodiversity are decimating our 20 native species of bumblebee and 77 species of wild solitary bee.

Councils can lead the battle to save pollinators. That was the message at Cork's recent Biodiversity and Councils' All-Ireland Pollinator Plan conference.

While gardeners, farmers, businesses, and community groups play a role in reversing the fate of Ireland's bee species, local authorities, who manage large tracts of public land, must change their land management practices to help the insects on which we rely for our food crops.

Representatives from city and county councils nationwide attended the day-long conference of talks on strategies to help declining bee species. Topics included cultivating wildflower meadows, reducing the use of pesticides, and planting pollinator-friendly flowers in public parks.

Dr Una Fitzpatrick is a senior ecologist at the National Biodiversity Data Centre and one of the forces behind the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan, 2015-2020.

As the country-wide action plan reaches the end of its five-year term, Dr Fitzpatrick said things are still 'pretty dire' for Ireland's 97 bee species. "Between 2012 and 2018, species were still in decline," she said.

However, it could be 2025 or even 2030 before the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan has an impact and before threatened pollinators show signs of a recovery, Dr Fitzpatrick said.

Many Irish people feel local and national government isn't putting pollinators first.

Some 88% of Irish people said the Government isn't working hard enough to save bees, according to a survey conducted by the All-Ireland Pollinator plan last year. And 72% want more educational measures, 69% want government bodies to stop using pesticides, and 63% want more pollinator-friendly planting in parks.

In the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan's interactive map, even school children are out-performing local authorities: Irish councils have recorded 80 actions to protect bees since the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan was launched in 2015. But schools have recorded 91.

Community groups, including Tidy Towns committees, have recorded 312 actions and there have been 218 actions from gardens.

Now, just one year from the end of the five-year plan, local authorities are signing up to a framework agreement launched in March, in a bid by the All-



On the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan's interactive map, even school children are out-performing local authorities.

Picture: iStock

Ireland Pollinator Plan to improve uptake from councils. Dr Fitzpatrick said the response from councils has been "really positive".

The agreement calls on local authorities to take one pollinator-promoting action within the first year, to make a record of the actions they are taking, and to provide an annual report.

Of Ireland's 31 local authorities, six have so far signed up.

In Munster, Limerick, and Waterford, councils have signed the framework agreement. Cork City and County Councils, which sponsored the biodiversity and councils conference, have

yet to sign up. Dr Fitzpatrick said that talks are ongoing, and that she expects a framework agreement "soon".

Dun Laoghaire Rathdown Co Council (DLRCC) has radically overhauled its land management, in response to the pollinator crisis; in 2018, they eliminated chemical use on public lands, apart from invasive species control, and now use hot-water machines for weed control.

They have also changed their verge-cutting and management of public land. This is to allow to flower plants that are needed as a food source by bees.

But DLRCC biodiversity manager,

Anne Murray, said the public need to be educated and that she has received complaints that the council is not doing its job.

Weeding out out-dated mentalities is an important aspect of the pollinator plan, Ms Murray, and several other speakers, emphasised: instead of seeing flowering plants, like dandelions, as weeds to be eradicated, the public must see these plants as a vital seasonal food source for bees.

Ms Murray has heard complaints from elderly residents who perceive long grass as untidy: one complainant said they thought that the long grass

would encourage drug dealers into the area. "People think we're not managing sites, because they think we're trying to save money or reduce our workload," she said.

In fact, it's more expensive to manage public land for pollinators: Ms Murray said regular maintenance costs €84 per hectare annually, but up to €140 per hectare when land is managed for pollinators, mostly caused by composting costs.

Trinity College botanist, Dr Jane Stout, has a stark warning for councils about use of pesticides, including neonicotinoids, a group of systemic insecti-

**“As the action plan reaches the end of its five-year term, things are still ‘pretty dire’ for our 97 bee species**

cides that are known bee-killers, and glyphosate, the herbicide shown last year to damage bees' health and navigation abilities.

Farmers may get a bad rap for their use of pesticides, but traditionally managed lawns and green spaces can bear up to 10 times the pesticide burden of agricultural land, according to US biodiversity group The Audubon Society.

Dr Stout said that while the use of pesticides on agricultural land is measured, we have no way of knowing the quantity of pesticides used on local authority lands, and that the full impact of pesticides on pollinators, which are a "flagship for biodiversity", is not yet fully understood.

Some 77% of Irish honey samples were found to contain traces of pesticides in a recent study, Dr Stout said, proving that insecticides, herbicides, and fungicides are contaminating pollinators' food chain.

Outside of agricultural settings, we don't know how much is being used," she said. "It seems prudent, given that we don't know the impacts of these pesticides, to seek alternatives and to change perception."

Reduce, rethink, and replace pesticides with something less-damaging, Dr Stout says.

## Regulation of short-term letting sector belated but welcome

AFTER much delay, the Government has finally introduced regulations for the short-term letting sector. Last week, the Oireachtas Housing Committee unanimously passed Housing Minister Eoghan Murphy's amendments to the Planning and Development Act 2000, which are set to become law before the summer.

The new rules will only apply to properties within rent-pressure zones and, as with the 4% cap, will expire at the end of 2021, unless extended by further legislation.

Based on proposals made by the Housing Committee in October 2017, the regulations will operate on three levels and will apply from July 1, a month later than originally announced.

If you let out a room in your own home, or let out your entire home, for less than 90 days in a year, you will not be affected by the new rules. You can carry on as before, without a need for planning permission or any additional charges.

If you let out a room in your own home, or let out your entire home, for more than 90 days, you will need to apply to your local authority for planning permission. Councils will be given guidance on how to deal with such applications.

The cost of your application will be €3.80 per square metre for change-of-use, amounting to €180 for a small flat or €576 for a three-bed family home. If granted planning permission, no other costs (such as commercial water charges) will apply, as this is your principal residence.

If you let out a second property, or entire properties, commercially, you will have to secure planning permission, irrespective of how long you let the property for. Standard planning fees will apply, as will commercial water

From July 1, potential rental homes will no longer be available short-term, except with planning permission and even then rarely, says **Eoin Ó Broin**

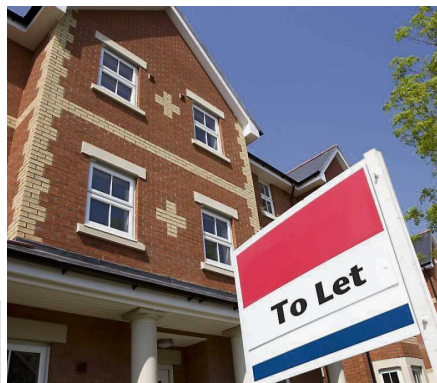


charges. However, during last week's Housing Committee meeting, Minister Murphy said that he expects the vast majority of these properties (i.e. non-principal residences) to be refused planning permission for short-term letting. He repeatedly referred to a "blanket ban" in all but the most exceptional of cases.

So, the new regulations will have little impact on genuine, peer-to-peer home sharers or those letting out their own home part-time.

However, for commercial, short-term lets in rent-pressure zones, the Government's clear intention is for those properties to be transferred back to the long-term rental market.

The legislation defines short-term letting as 14 days, but this technical definition does not have any impact on the planning permission requirement or, where planning is granted, how long



The key to getting it right here is to ensure that hosts, platforms, and agents have clear information as early as possible on how the new regime works.

a property can be let.

Also, where a property currently has planning permission for short-term letting, this will not be affected by the new rules.

It was disappointing that the Government did not also bring forward regulations for short-term letting platforms and agents. This was recommended by the Oireachtas Housing Committee in our 2017 report.

The committee was strongly of the view that there should be a legal requirement for platforms to share information with both the local authority and Revenue on the length of time hosts let out their property. We also felt it should be an offence for platforms or agents to advertise non-compliant properties.

In the absence of such measures, all of the onus for the effective enforce-

**“If you let out a room in your own home, or let out your entire home, for less than 90 days in a year, you will not be affected by the new rules**

ment of the new rules will fall on local authorities.

This means that council planning departments will need adequate staff and resources, not only to process planning applications, but to track compliance.

Enforcement of short-term letting has proved difficult in some cities, as individual hosts and some platforms have deliberately sought to circumvent the rules. However, other cities have high levels of compliance.

The key to getting it right here is to ensure that hosts, platforms, and agents have clear information as early as possible on how the new regime works. There must be a consistency of message across all councils, and applications for planning permission must be dealt with quickly.

The Government must send out a very strong signal that it intends to fully enforce the new rules and that non-compliance will be dealt with

firmly and quickly.

As one of the first TDs in the current Dáil to call for the regulation of the short-term letting sector, back in 2016, I welcome the Government's move. We need clear and fair regulations that protect guests and hosts, while ensuring that short-term letting does not have a disruptive impact on the private rental sector.

Unfortunately, in the absence of any regulations, a significant number of rental properties have been lost to the market because of short-term letting, particularly in rent-pressure zones.

While not the cause of our rental and homelessness crises, this loss has made these worse.

Ultimately, a large volume of good-quality, affordable rental accommodation, provided by councils and approved housing bodies, along with greater security of tenure and rent certainty in the private sector, are the only long-term solutions to our dysfunctional rental system.

However, ensuring that short-term letting is properly regulated is also necessary.

Indeed, the Government should reconsider the 2021 sunset clause and simply allow local authorities to relax the "blanket ban" on commercial, short-term lets in rent-pressure zones as the rental and homelessness crises ease.

Abandoning regulations fully would be a significant and could result in future disruptions.

The short-term letting sector, just like the private and social rental sectors, needs fair and transparent regulation that protects hosts and guests alike.

■ Eoin Ó Broin is a Sinn Féin TD for Dublin mid-west and spokesman on housing, planning, and local government. His book, *HOME: Why Public Housing is the Answer*, will be published by Merrion Press in May.



## Live music

## Shawn Mendes

3Arena, Dublin  
★★★★☆

Boy-next-door charm and smoothly calibrated pop have proved a potent blend in the hands of Canadian chart poppet Shawn Mendes. Without fanfare the 20-year-old has zipped to the top of music's power rankings, an ascent built on both his photogenic hair and politely groovy songs.

But he added a surprising new ingredient with last year's self-titled third album — a more mature affair that saw the Toronto-native move beyond puppy-eyed adorability and ponder the flesh-and-blood complications of romance.

The record hinted that he might achieve what many of his peers have failed at in escaping teen stardom and carving a career as grown-up musician. Somewhere Justin Bieber is sitting up taking notes.



A recent picture of Shawn Mendes, who combined his pop hits with evidence of a more mature talent for his sold-out gigs in Dublin at the weekend.

Mendes winningly blended those two personas — adolescent dreamboat and conflicted 20-something — as he brought his new tour to Dublin for the first of two sold-out performances. He wore heart on sleeve throughout, rocking out with visible aplomb on 'There's Nothin' Holding Me Back' and performing the stripped down 'I Don't Know What It's Like To Be You' from a second stage in the middle of the standing fans.

He got his big break posting brief snippets to the now defunct social media site Vine. So it was a pleasant surprise that his songs often lacked the disposability of fellow Canadian megastars Bieber and Drake.

Mendes plays guitar and piano and was as comfortable crooning desolately over the ivories on 'Never Be Alone' as unleashing his inner pop god on 'Lost In Japan'. You suspect that he can't wait for the present.

His career to wind down of so that he can get on with being taken more seriously as a songwriter.

Gimmicks put at a minimum (unless you could his curly-wurly locks or the cut-off top that exposed his arms) and his four piece band added grit to the glamour.

The biggest concession to stage craft was an animatronic rose that quivered and changed colours on the second stage (and was ultimately showered in confetti).

A huge blinking conspiracy of petals and electronics was the perfect window-dressing for a teen heart throb in full bloom.

Ed Power

## For the love of art

A former Cork dentist returned to her passion for painting late in life and has produced enough work for an exhibition of her own.

Currently showing at Ballymaloe Grainstore, Dr Ruth Daly would be familiar to many of the country's dentists from her time as a tutor in UCC's School of Dentistry before her retirement in 2001.



Three Wise Men, by Dr Ruth Daly, inset.

Now in her 80s, Dr Daly was a keen painter in childhood, but recalls how the girls were encouraged to aim for the more traditional and safe professions and there was possibly an unfair stigma against pursuing a career as an artist.

Dentistry, teaching and the rearing of her children meant painting pursuits were put on hold for many years, but her renewed efforts were rewarded last year when one of her her paintings, *Three Wise Men*, was selected for the Royal Irish Academy's summer exhibition in Dublin.

That particular work also features in the Ballymaloe exhibition, alongside almost 40 other paintings Dr Daly created through the decades.

■ Three Wise Men, an exhibition of paintings by Ruth Daly, runs at Ballymaloe Grainstore until April 29

# Revved up and raring to go

A FEW years ago the exclusive club of Irish bands capable of selling out Dublin's 3Arena welcomed a new member in the form of Dingle's Walking On Cars. With tunes that blended folk and pop they were hailed — a bit lazily — as the homegrown Mumford and Sons. They certainly knew their way around an anthemic pop song, and were soon taking their seat at the top table of Irish rock.

It was in many ways an unlikely success story. The group, all from rural Kerry, were childhood friends who'd started playing together as a lark. In 2015, with minimal promotion or industry fanfare, their single 'Speeding Cars' became a top 20 hit across Ireland and the continent. Twelve months later, before they had quite taken it all in, they sold out 3Arena. And then the wheels came off.

"Before we started our second album people were saying 'oh that's going to be the tough one,'" recalls Patrick Sheehy, who fronts the five-piece alongside Sorchu Durham. "We didn't know what they meant. And then we lived into it. And we definitely felt the pressure."

The problem was that while their 2016 debut *Everything This Way* had been half a decade in the plotting, its follow-up had to be put together in less than 18 months. That was huge change and initially it seemed to the group that they were being asked to become a musical production line. Knocking out track after track didn't come naturally. They grew a bit fed up — and then slightly anxious.

"They'd already scaled the mountain once. Could they do so all over again?" "We went into it with the wrong psychology," says Sheehy. "We had the wrong aim. Too much time was spent focusing on the sound of the instruments — rather than digging deep and being honest and real and creating something that was authentic."

## DRAWING BOARD

After weeks of pained mucking about they sat back and listened to what they had done. It sounded, to them, like a bland facsimile of *Everything This Way*. So they scrapped it and started over.

"We realised is that we had to be honest," says Sheehy. "On the first record we were writing for the sake of writing — for the love of it. So we stepped back and tried to recapture that."

Sheehy, if anything bars his soul even more on the new LP, *Colours*. He

Dingle heroes Walking on Cars tell **Ed Power** how they got past second-album syndrome, and why the band are turning their Cork gig into a sort of homecoming

croons wrenchingly about his difficult relationship with alcohol on the single 'Coldest Water'. He's far from an addict — but came to realise that he was in certain social situations using drinking as a crutch. All his pain, regret, confusion and even shame, he poured into the lyrics, which are immensely powerful.

He's aware that 'Coldest Water' has been doing well. But Sheehy is nonetheless taken aback when the *Irish Examiner* informs him that it's headed for half a million streams on Spotify — an indication that it's poised to become a major hit.

"When you put yourself out there and people accept and appreciate it... that's a good feeling. The sentiments can apply to a lot of things. People have all kinds of addictions: whether it's food or drink or drugs or social media. It could be anything."

Still, there were moments, he says, when the band feared that they'd said all they had to say and that a second album might never be forthcoming. There is a theory in the music industry that some artists peak too quickly and have nowhere else to go. What if Walking On Cars had



Walking On Cars have just released their second album, and their European tour takes in summer dates in Dublin and Cork.

stumbled into that trap? "There are always those times you are totally uninspired," says Sheehy. "You think, 'have I done my best work — is that it?' But then the following day you go back to the studio and there's a different energy and it's all happening. So we just kept showing up and gradually we got there. We're delighted with the album now and can't wait for people to hear it."

## BIG IN GERMANY

One surprise is how well the band are doing on the Continent. Germany, in particular, has embraced Walking On Cars.

On their upcoming tour of the country they will be playing Vicar Street and Dublin Olympia scale venues — a sign of how fast their fanbase has grown there. Even more impressive is the loyalty Germany has shown. In the three years since *Everything This Way*, the fanbase has patiently waited to hear what else the group has up its sleeve.

"People focus on the UK and American markets. Germany is absolutely huge," says Sheehy. "Radio there latched on to 'Speeding

Cars' very quickly. And when you have a hit in Germany it just lingers on the radio for six to nine months. So that song got a crazy amount of action."

"There are acts in Germany who are huge stars but nobody else has heard of them. There's a guy from Tralee, Res Garvey, who we've toured with. He plays arenas in Germany and is a judge on *The Voice* there."

There are always those times you are totally uninspired. But then the following day you go back to the studio and there's a different energy and it's all happening

He's absolute massive. And he could walk down the street here and nobody would recognise him. It's mad."

## MUSGRAVE PARK

Walking On Cars return to 3Arena on May 23. However, if there's a concert that the band are really looking forward to it's their Musgrave Park show in Cork on June 21. Just up the road from Dingle it's the closest to a homecoming for Sheehy and company, with more than 12,000 expected to attend.

The day is also mushrooming into a mini-festival. Recent UK chart-topper Tom Walker is on the bill — as is 'new Adele' Lewis Capaldi, whose own Ireland and UK tour is a straight sell-out.

"It's going to be awesome," says Sheehy. "To get Lewis Capaldi on the bill is ridiculous. The last time we did 3Arena a lot of Kerry people travelled up. I think they'll go to Cork on this occasion — it will save them a bit of money on the petrol!"

■ Colours is out now. Walking On Cars play 3Arena, Dublin on May 23; and Musgrave Park in Cork on June 21

## GAMETECH



Star Wars Jedi: Fallen Order is set for release on November 15.

shadows. In *Fallen Order*, you play one of those outcast Jedi, Cal Kestis, who was a trainee padawan when Order 66 takes place.

When we start the game, Cal is in hiding, but uses his force powers to try and save someone, which brings him to the attention of the Empire's inquisitors.

On the run, Cal promises to himself that he will trust no one, and "trust only in the force".

The team behind *Fallen Jedi* are Respawn Entertainment, who recently shot to superstardom in the gaming industry with *Apex Legends*, the latest *Battle Royale* fad.

However, they are arguably better known and respected in the industry itself for the *Titanfall* series. Respawn are working directly with Lucasfilm's story department to ensure everything is in line with Star Wars canon, and they have hired Cameron Monaghan to play the lead character.

Monaghan is best known for his role as The Joker in *Gotham*, the TV series about Bruce Wayne's teenage years.

While *Fallen Jedi* is a Respawn game, many of the developers working on it have a high pedigree from other companies, and the lead designer is Stig Asmussen, who worked on *God*

of War 3, one of this writer's favourite PS3 titles.

Stig described the game as 'action-melee', where combat would require thought and precision, as you figured out each enemy's weakness.

While we didn't see any gameplay footage of *Fallen Jedi*, everything about the game seems destined to succeed. On November 15, we will find out if Star Wars has a new hope in the gaming galaxy.

## Star Wars expands with Onslaught

Meanwhile, while the official title of Star Wars Episode IX is *The Rise of Skywalker*, another Star Wars property rose from the dead this week too. An expansion was announced for the online world Star Wars: *The Old Republic*, its first for three years. The expansion is called *Onslaught* and it will bring a new story, two new planets, a 'flashpoint', a new 'operation' and some new abilities.

Players will visit Onderon, a planet of "untamed jungles and savages beasts", Mek-Sha, a fuelling station in a mined-out asteroid, and explore more of Corellia for the finale. The level cap will be raised to 75 and there will be new items to work with called 'tactical items'.

Onslaught will launch in November of this year and will be free to subscribers.

## Tomb Raider sequel

Finally, giving us a hint back to the world of cinema in the form of another *Tomb Raider* sequel. That might not be a fair exchange for Star Wars, but it's the best we have. It has been announced that a sequel to the 2010 *Tomb Raider* has been greenlit, with star Alicia Vikander coming back as Lara Croft and scriptwriting duties falling to Amy Jump, who wrote *Fire and Blood*. (Yes, we had never heard of those either.) The 2018 film made over \$200m at the box office, so it's easy to see why they have gone back to the tomb that keeps on giving.



with Ronan Jennings





Editor: Esther N  
McCarthy @estread

# LIFE/STYLE

fashion & beauty

Wednesday, 17 April, 2019

## Acid test

Once considered a crime against fashion, everyone from Stella to Victoria to Dior embraced acid wash denim this season. Best worn in classic cuts, like this Zara jacket, €39.95.



## Dress down

We have nothing but good things to say about this Marc O Polo denim shirt-dress, a timeless summer staple that will take you from the beach to the bar. €169, Pure boutique, Douglas.



## Skirt the issue

The denim skirt is back – from acid washed minis to deep, dark midi styles. For an office-appropriate option that works off-duty too, try See by Chloe's A-Line skirt, €25, Brown Thomas.



## Utility room

Workwear chic is an overarching trend for spring summer, so get your outerwear in order and order this belted workwear denim jacket by And Other Stories, €99, stories.com.



## Get shirty

Always a sound investment, the denim shirt has been reinvented with feminine detailing in soft, chambray cloths. Denim blouse, anyone? Trinity blouse by Ganni, €179, Brown Thomas.



## Button up

From dungarees to pinafores, your go-to denim pieces are no longer restricted to jeans and jackets. This pinafore/dress hybrid offers summer-ready style. €29.95, Zara.



## Word to the wide

When it comes to giving skinny cuts a wide berth, go big or go home. Think 90s Brit Pop-style baggy pants with a tracksuit top and bucket hat. Jeans, €79, COS.



## Boiler alert!

If you make one addition to your wardrobe this season, make it a boiler suit. Versatile, practical and chic, it's a one-and-done utilitarian dream. Denim boiler suit, €25, Penneys.



## Shape up

You don't have to bid your skinny jeans adieu, but fashion folk have moved on, so for an instant style overhaul, embrace a looser cut. Arizona by Victoria Victoria Beckham, €315, Brown Thomas.



**Double Trouble.**  
Doubling up on your denim isn't the fashion faux pas it used to be. To do this right for right now, pair different denim washes and look for contrasting cuts and details. Marks & Spencer are on point with their Holly Willoughby-endorsed fitted western blouse (€44) and ultra wide-leg cropped jeans (€40).



# Out of the blue

Explore new horizons this season with an updated take on denim. Loosen up with fresh new cuts, be bold with acid washes, or step into spring in denim dresses and workwear. Timeless, classic, and always chic, denim is the hard-working wardrobe hero with the power to offer an instant style update. Here are the best ways to wear denim right now, writes **Carolyn Moore**

# THE Skin NERD

Jennifer Rock



## Seeing red over rosacea? Soothing serum is key

I have been recently diagnosed with rosacea. It was very inflamed with red bumps and very angry-looking. I think it was triggered by stress. I've got it under control now, but I'd love if you could advise me on the best cleanser, moisturiser, foundation, and SPF to use. I'm willing to pay, but are there budget options? I have normal skin otherwise.

Maureen, Cork City

Hi Maureen,

I'm glad to hear that you have a handle on your rosacea, especially with April being Rosacea Awareness Month. As you've mentioned, rosacea does require ongoing maintenance: it is a long-term skin condition. Rosacea is inflammatory, so we simultaneously try to reduce the inflammation, protect the skin from the environment, and strengthen it. Although this sounds complicated, it's actually simpler than you'd think, and can be done on a budget, so long as the ingredients in the products are effective.

Before we discuss topical skincare, many people find relief from rosacea symptoms when they keep a close eye on their diet and their lifestyle. Rosacea sufferers that we speak with, through our Nerd Network® online skin consultations, say that avoiding spicy food, caffeine, and sugar helps them immensely. Apologies if that's not what you wanted to hear.

For the most part, when we're talking about cleansers for rosacea skin, we're looking for mild, inactive, nourishing cleansers. The Biodfresh Sensitive Probiotic Ultra Delicate Cleansing Milk (€18) contains a



yoghurt probiotic and pure rose oil.

The probiotic assists in allowing the skin's microbiome, the careful balance of bacteria on its surface, to balance itself, which can ease inflammatory symptoms, such as redness, itchiness and swelling. Rose oil is anti-inflammatory and hydrating in nature, and promotes skin healing.

I'd always recommend a serum over a moisturiser. Serums are concentrated moisturisers that can pen-

etrate deeper into the skin, for longer-lasting effects. For rosacea, you need a serum that hydrates, provides antioxidant protection, and soothes, at the same time. A tall order? Maybe, but your skin needs it.

The Neostatra Restore Redness Neutralising Serum (€50) contains Neostatra's trademarked BioCalm Complex, which reduces skin flushing and blocks the process that allows inflammation to occur. It also contains antioxidants vitamin E and white tea extract, and polyhydroxy acids to strengthen the barrier and improve skin hydration.

Opt for pure, fully mineral makeup. Mineral powders tend to have the cleanest formulations, but make sure that the brand you choose is mineral rather than simply 'mineralised', as this is just cosmetic makeup with minerals added to it. Cosmetic makeup sometimes contains drying alcohols and sensitising fragrances, which can exacerbate symptoms in those with rosacea.

Wearing SPF daily is essential for everyone, as damaging UVA rays get to us no matter the weather and through windows, but it is particularly important for people with rosacea, as UV rays can be a trigger for flare-ups. Once again, go mineral when it comes to your broad spectrum SPF. Some find chemical SPF can irritate their skin, but that mineral doesn't.

A routine that contains the ingredients mentioned will help with your rosacea self-care, but that shouldn't replace the need for medical advice.

SEND YOUR QUESTIONS TO  
THESKINNERD@EXAMINER.IE



## THE NERDIE PICK

■ Jane Iredale PurePressed Base, (€35, selected salons and Chemist Pharmacies nationwide)

Jane Iredale PurePressed Base is a mineral powder foundation that can be dusted across the skin for a natural look or built up to full coverage. It's oil-free, feels like nothing on the skin, and provides additional UVA and UVB protection. When it comes to colour-matching for rosacea, it is worthwhile to opt for a tone that is a tiny bit more yellow than your skin. The yellow will help to reduce the appearance of any redness, while the naturally anti-inflammatory minerals actually calm the skin. It has a matte finish, without being drying or chalky, so it works for all!



## Tax revenues to rise even as economy cools

Eamon Quinn

Finance Minister Paschal Donohoe looks set to have ample room for spending rises and tax cuts in his next budget even as the Government cut the growth outlook.

The latest economic forecasts, which the Department of Finance releases in the Stability Programme as part of the regular cycle of budget forecasts prepared for the EU, show it cut its headline

GDP growth projections for this year and in 2020 from previous forecasts in October's budget.

GDP will grow this year and in 2020 by 3.3% and by 3.3%, down from growth rates of 4.2% and 3.6% projected in the October forecasts.

However, the forecasts reveal the Government still expects to take in more in tax revenues this year and next year than it anticipated six months ago despite the lower

headline figures, as corporation tax receipts continue to swell.

The forecasts came as Central Bank governor Philip Lane stepped up warnings about the potential risks facing banks and Government finances.

The Department of Finance is now projecting it will collect tax revenue of over €58.4bn this year, up from over €57.9bn projected on budget day in October, and forecasts it will have

€500m more from corporation tax receipts in 2019 than anticipated.

And in planning for the next budget in October, it now projects it will collect tax revenue of more than €61.2bn in 2020, up from the revenue of €60.9bn forecast six months ago.

Austin Hughes, chief economist at KBC Bank Ireland, said the implied fiscal room for tax cuts and spending increases will likely be larger than even the new figures

suggest and will become something of an embarrassment for the finance minister and his officials, who are trying to rein in budget spending expectations.

Mr Hughes said there are a number of factors which are likely to boost Government finances, including the prospects for a much softer Brexit outcome than seemed possible only a few weeks ago, a more favourable exchange rate, as well as interest rates that have fallen

significantly since October, which implies much lower finance charges on the national debt.

"The fiscal cooking up" is probably opening up more than the Department of Finance would like, he said.

Conall Mac Coille, chief economist at Davy, said that despite all the talk of prudence" the forecasts still show rapid growth in spending.

Mr Donohoe told reporters that the new forecasts as-

sume an orderly Brexit come as tax revenues so far this year started positively and the exchequer expects to collect €500m more than anticipated in corporation tax receipts this year.

Gross debt next year will fall below the key 60% level next year as a share of GDP, but would still be an elevated level of 91% when measured by the modified measure of the economy.

Meanwhile, business group Ibec said it expects the

economy to grow 4% this year.

The Irish economy is in a sweet spot, with growth in employment and wages both hitting close to 3% in 2018, said head of tax and fiscal policy Gerard Brady.

The six months of additional time given to the Brexit process is welcome as it avoids an imminent cliff-edge situation. However, it has also left business to manage the rolling, and costly uncertainty."

## Surprise drugs boost for J&J

Riley Griffin

Three months ago, Johnson & Johnson (J&J) predicted an ugly 2019 as the healthcare giant faced thousands of consumer lawsuits and pressure in the US on drug prices. But its latest quarterly results suggested the company may have been too pessimistic.

While sales are still being hurt by difficult foreign exchange rates, J&J's fast-growing pharmaceutical unit helped offset its weaker consumer and medical device lines.

Instead of the zero to 1% annual operational growth the company warned investors about in January, J&J said its first-quarter operating revenue was up 3.5%.

And chief financial officer Joseph Wolk said that earnings were heavily weighed toward the drug unit.

"That gave us greater confidence than we had in January," Mr Wolk said.

"Investors were somewhat nervous going into the print given challenges that biopharma companies often face in the first quarter of the year," said Vamini Divan, an analyst with Credit Suisse.

Another bright spot was the launch of J&J's nasal spray Spravato, a close chemical cousin of the anesthetic ketamine that works quickly to alleviate symptoms of depression.

The rollout is "off to a very strong start," said Jennifer Taubert, head of the pharmaceutical unit, said on a conference call.

Mr Taubert said there are now as many as 800 sites approved to treat patients with the drug.

While the company is facing a set of legal and business challenges, the drug unit's results are likely to give some comfort to investors that the worst-case scenario may not come to pass.

Shares of the New Jersey-based firm rose as much as 1.1%.

The stock has lagged broader indexes this year, and is up 8.2%, compared with the 16% gain in the US S&P 500.

There are still obstacles ahead. The company faces thousands of lawsuits in which plaintiffs claim they were given cancer by J&J's talc-based personal care products, and J&J has settled some of the cases.

Those settlements could eventually cost the company as much as \$15bn (£13.2bn).

The drugmaker has also been named in hundreds of lawsuits by US cities, counties and states over its role in the US opioid epidemic, and is facing more than 10,000 lawsuits in which patients say they were harmed by a J&J artificial joint.

■ Bloomberg

## Serving up success



Tracy Donnelly, chairperson, Skillet Ireland, Amy-Jane Troy, Food Industry Training Unit, UCC, Bridie Corrigan-Matthews, network manager, Taste 4 Success Skillnet, Paul McSweeney, VP Learning and Teaching, UCC, and Mary McCarthy-Buckley, Food Industry Training Unit, UCC, launch a report to help further develop, enhance and recognise learning and upskilling of employees in the food and agri-food sectors. Picture: Gerard McCarthy

## Growth tide may turn to boost euro

Anoosha Debnath

The euro's stagnant start to the year might be ending as signs emerge that Europe's economic growth is reviving.

Traders are unwinding bets against the common currency in the options market, with a gauge of the year's economic recovery over one year now the least negative in 11 months.

Europe's recovering economy, coupled with optimism surrounding China's trade, will help push the euro more than 4% higher in coming months, according to UBS and Morgan Stanley.

The euro has lost ground against the dollar this year and been stuck in a range of \$1.12 to \$1.14 in recent months, on fears of a recession in Germany and a dovish turn by the ECB.

That has undermined the forecasts of analysts who were predicting at the start of the year that the common currency would gain as policy makers removed policy-maker stimulus.

"Range trading can mask an underlying build-up of pressures that get released eventually," said UBS' head of currency and rates strategy Themos Fotakis.

"We acknowledge the ECB's dovishness but are inclined to see growth in Europe and globally, as the more forward-looking and bullish driver of the euro," he said.

Mr Fotakis sees the eurozone's sales, such as retail sales and industrial production, as overshadowing ECB President Mario Draghi's subdued rhetoric last week.

Signs of a tentative recovery appeared in the form of German investor confidence data, with the ZEW expectations gauge beating analyst estimates.

The euro has also shown resilience to negative news in the past week, recovering following Mr Draghi's comments following a report that some ECB policy makers are sceptical about growth in the second half of 2019.

UBS predicts the euro will advance to \$1.18 in coming months and beat full-year targets at \$1.20.

The currency traded over \$1.13 yesterday, with a rebounding 1.5% this week.

Morgan Stanley is just as bullish as UBS.

The company's flash estimate for the eurozone Purchasing Managers Index may

provide the nascent indications of an improvement in China filtering through to Europe, said strategists including Hans Redeker.

"Optimism on growth in the rest of the world rebounding should weaken the dollar and help the euro," Mr Redeker said.

"We like buying euro-dollar this week," he said, adding the US bank is also targeting \$1.18. That is a level last touched in September.

Nordea Bank sees it breaking through that to hit \$1.1650 within the next few months. ■ Bloomberg

## Kingspan bids €700m for Belgian company

Pádraig Hoare

Shares in specialist building materials group Kingspan rose almost 3% as it said it had offered €700m for the insulation division of Belgian mattress firm Recticel.

Cavan-based Kingspan said the offer was to acquire Recticel's entire insulation and flexible foams divisions, with an agreement with a third party for the disposal of all of the flexible foams businesses if the bid was successful.

Kingspan declined to comment further on whether the bid was related to Brexit and market diversification, but Recticel has insulation manufacturing facilities in the UK, France, Slovenia as well as its native Belgium.

Recticel said its insulation division achieved combined sales of €271.2m in 2018, while its flexible foams division achieved combined sales of €921.5m with an adjusted Ebitda of €41.5m, Recticel said.

Shares in the firm surged more than 20% in Brussels after the Kingspan bid.

Kingspan has spent over €6bn in the past year on acquisitions, bolstering facilities in North and South America.

In February, chief executive Gene Murtagh said while the acquisition pipeline was very healthy, the European market remains very unpredictable.

A quarter of Kingspan's revenues are derived from its UK business.

Mr Murtagh confirmed that while the company branch in new markets in Latin America and India last year, any purchases made this year would likely be focused on continental Europe.

Mr Murtagh was speaking at Kingspan's annual €4bn revenue mark for the first time.

## In brief

### Banks may need to increase buffers

Central Bank governor Philip Lane said that it is examining the potential for banks to add to reserves to safeguard against any sharp downturn. Our plan now is to examine the potential additional contribution of the systemic risk buffer in ensuring that the banking system would be resilient in the event of a structural shock to the Irish economy," he said in a speech at the UCD School of Economics.

In relation to the financial system, fragile banks that lack sufficient capital and liquidity buffers may respond to an adverse shock by pulling back on credit provision and thereby deepen its recessionary impact.

"In relation to fiscal policy, a fragile sovereign may not be able to engage in countervailing fiscal measures on account of funding difficulties," he said.

### Rise in goods trade with Britain

The CSO said goods exports to Britain increased 16% to €1.2bn in February from the same month a year earlier, on increases of mineral fuels and lubricants, and accounted for 10% of total exports.

Imports from Britain surged 19% to €1.6bn over the same period and accounted for 26% of the value of all imports in February.

### Ftse-100 boost as China fears ease

Asia-focused financial stocks, led by the FTSE 100, rose in China, and a weaker sterling thrusts London's main index to levels not seen since October, while the FTSE 100 cap retailer JD Sports hit a record high after forecasting a profit. The index rose 2.6% after hitting its highest since October 4 as a dip in pound boosted blue-chip exporter stocks. The index built on last week's momentum, when the EU agreed a second delay to Brexit.

### G4S progress in splitting business

Security firm G4S, which has been subject to takeover interest from Canada's Garda World Security, said it had made good progress in a review to separate its cash business and reported higher first-quarter revenue. Revenue for the first quarter rose 4.8% from a year earlier, driven by a more than 4% growth in both its secure solutions and cash solutions businesses. The company had said in December it was looking to split off its cash business to focus on its security operations and said last month it received interest from potential bidders for the unit.

### Asia may hamper crude oil's rally

Oil's march back toward a four-year high is now facing some headwinds in the form of demand in Asia, though the path may clear to allow further gains later this year. While the current rally in global benchmark prices to over \$71 a barrel will put pressure on government finances in Asia's import-dependent nations, the level of fiscal stress typically doesn't determine their crude purchases. Instead, the volume of shipments is influenced by the state of demand for fuel from industries and consumers in the world's biggest oil-consuming region. In a discouraging sign for oil bulls, some indicators of consumption such as growth in both its secure solutions and cash solutions businesses. The company had said in December it was looking to split off its cash business to focus on its security operations and said last month it received interest from potential bidders for the unit.

## Rising fuel costs help send Lufthansa into the red

Caroline Copley

Lufthansa posted an operating loss of €536m for the first three months of the year, hurt by rising fuel costs and excess capacity in Europe.

Germany's biggest airline said in an after-hours update that a €202m rise in fuel costs had contributed to the loss, while ticket prices fell significantly at Lufthansa's other airlines, which include Swiss and Austrian Airlines, as well as budget carrier Eurowings.

However, the size of the loss was far greater than analysts had expected, though investors appeared to put concerns behind them.

Lufthansa shares which initially fell in morning trade later rallied by as much as 5.7%. Shares in rivals Ryanair, Aer-Lingus-owned IAG, EasyJet, and Air France KLM gained slightly.

Lufthansa's loss added weight to concerns across the industry and follows a bleak report from EasyJet, which said at the start of the month it expected to report a €275m (£318m) loss in the six months to the end of March.

The fall in Lufthansa's earnings was accentuated by a tough comparison with the previous year when the insolvency of Air Berlin removed a major competitor in its home market, it said.

Lufthansa reported an operating profit of €52m for the same period a year earlier.

European airlines are battling overcapacity and high fuel costs, while uncertainty around Brexit has led some travellers to delay summer holiday bookings. The first quarter is traditionally the weakest for airlines, analysts at Independent Research said, but that the risk of a profit warning had risen.

Lufthansa said it expects revenues to pick up in the second quarter as booking levels recover, adding that for 2019, it still expects to make an adjusted operating profit margin of 6.5% to 8%. ■ Reuters

## Shares surge in JD Sports as it defies UK retail gloom

Millennials' fondness for athleisure wear helped retailer JD Sports Fashion defy Britain's retail gloom and beat full-year earnings expectations.

The group's expansion over the past year, with the purchase of US-based Finish Line and smaller rival Footasylum, also bolstered annual profits. Shares in the firm rose more than 7.5% to a record high.

Executive chairman Peter Cowgill said Britain's biggest sportswear retailer had targeted millennials and Generation Z consumers -- those born between the mid-1990s and the mid-2000s -- who had driven the trend for athleisure, whereby gym clothes have become acceptable at work, school and on social occasions.

The company said headline pre-tax profit rose 15.5% to €355.2m (£410.7m) for its financial year.

Britain's retail industry has been hit by weakening consumer spending amid uncertainty over Brexit, higher business costs and a shift to online shopping.

JD, with more than 2,400 stores that sell brands including Nike, Puma and Adidas, has weathered the storm thanks to its international footprint and a strong online presence.

"That contrasts with rival Sports Direct, majority owned by billionaire Mike Ashley, who has recently failed in takeover attempts including for Debenhams and Findex.

Shares in Zalando also jumped after Europe's big-



JD Sports has reported a 49.2% increase in annual revenue to £4.7bn (£5.4bn) for the 52 weeks to February 2, 2019. Picture: PA

gest online-only fashion retailer said it expected to post an operating profit for the first quarter, when it usually makes a loss due to selling off remaining stock over Christmas at a discount.

The shares were up almost 11%, buoying other fashion firms like Asos, Zara-owner Inditex, Adidas and H&M.

The industry has been plagued in recent years by fierce competition and heavy discounting, while investment in logistics and technology to speed online delivery has also weighed on profitability, especially as Amazon expands in fashion.

Zalando said it expected adjusted earnings before interest and taxes in the single-digit millions, while analysts

had predicted an operating loss. It said sales growth should meet market expectations for about 23%.

Zalando said the results were in line with its full-year targets.

It was due to report first-quarter results on May 2.

Last week, shares in British retail Asos jumped after it stuck to its full-year guidance even after it reported a drop in first-half pretax profit.

Shares in Asos and Asos and Zalando tumbled last year after they were forced to issue profit warnings, with Asos blaming a high level of discounting and Zalando saying sales had been hit by the unusually long, hot summer in Europe. ■ Reuters

## Travel tech firms see opportunity for major growth

Pádraig Hoare

Travel tech provides an opportunity for major Irish growth, experts have said ahead of a showcase event in Cork.

More than 80 executives from travel tech firms are to meet with leading travel stakeholders including Jet Blue Technology Ventures, American Airlines, Lonely Planet, IAG, Radisson Hotel Group, Aer Lingus, and IHG, to discuss trends in the burgeoning market.

The Enterprise Ireland event will also showcase some of the country's most promising travel tech start-ups, the body said. Máire P Walsh of Enterprise



Dave Canty, VP Global Loyalty Program, IHG, will be one of the participants at the Travel Tech Summit in Cork today.

Ireland USA said: "The travel industry is on course to significantly grow over the coming years and to emerging markets and a growing global middle class.

"Ireland with its thriving travel tech industry has great potential to capitalise on this by continuing to deliver new and innovative customer engagement

products and services to meet evolving customer expectations."

With over 100 travel tech companies here employing over 3,500 people, Ireland has emerged as a leading travel tech hub producing global industry leaders such as CarTrawler, Datalex and OpenJag, Enterprise Ireland said.

There has been a huge focus globally on travel tech investment in the past decade. According to travel research firm Phocuswright, some 1,900 travel startups saw \$84bn (£74.5bn) in funding rounds or acquisitions in the 10 years until 2018.

Some 87% of the total amount was invested since 2015, Phocuswright found.



# Qualcomm scores victory as Apple dispute settled

Vibhuti Sharma and Stephen Nellis

Qualcomm won a major victory yesterday in settling its wide-ranging legal dispute with Apple, signing a six-year patent license deal and a supply agreement that could pave the way to getting its modem chips back in the iPhone, which featured

only Intel chips last year. The settlement also includes a payment from Apple to Qualcomm, but the companies did not disclose the amount. Shares of Qualcomm jumped 22% in late afternoon trading, their biggest gain in more than 19 years. Apple stock was up marginally. The settlement followed

two years of legal conflict between the two companies and came as opening arguments took place at a trial in federal court in San Diego. Apple had accused Qualcomm of using illegal patent practices to keep a monopoly on modem chips that connect phones to mobile data networks. Qualcomm had said Apple was using its technology

without paying for it. Apple began using Intel modem chips in some iPhones in 2016. Apple later stopped paying license fees to Qualcomm and completely stopped using its chips in iPhones in 2018. A jury of six men and three women was in the process of hearing opening arguments from Apple and Qualcomm

when news of the settlement broke. Judge Gonzalo Curiel briefly dismissed the jury as reporters in the courtroom rushed to confirm the news. "The two parties have reached the ideal conclusion," Judge Curiel told the jury on their return. "This development allows these tech companies to get

back to business, and it will permit you to get back to your affairs." Apple filed a \$1bn (£880m) lawsuit against Qualcomm in January 2017, accusing the chipmaker of overcharging for chips and refusing to pay some \$1bn in royalties. Later Qualcomm hit back with its own lawsuit, alleging that Apple used its left in

the electronics business to wrongly order contract factories such as Foxconn to withhold royalty payments until Apple agreed to settle. Apple had historically reimbursed the factories. As part of the settlement, Qualcomm will also negotiate with Apple's contract manufacturers. ■ Reuters

## In brief

### UK workers pay growing quickly

British workers' pay grew at its joint fastest pace in 12 years, according to employers' extended their hiring spree, adding to signs that uncertainty about Brexit is prompting firms to take on workers rather than commit to longer-term investments. Contrasting with other sluggish recovery in the UK's economy, total earnings, including bonuses, rose by an annual 3.5% in the three months to February, official data showed. That was the joint highest rate since mid-2008 although in the month of February only is on, the pace of wage growth slowed. Britain's labour market has defied the approach of Brexit, helping households whose spending drives the economy. Last week, Britain's job from the EU was delayed until October. Employment grew by 179,000 in the three months to February, helping to keep the unemployment rate at 3.9%, its lowest since early 1975, said the Office for National Statistics.

### Germany 'needs Commerzbank shares to treble'

Germany would need shares of Commerzbank to more than triple in order to break even on its investment in the lender, the Finance Ministry said. The ministry in response to questions about the bank's merger talks with Deutsche Bank. Germany's largest lender, Commerzbank, during the financial crisis, still owned about 15.6% of the bank. To exit the investment without a loss, it would need a share price of €28, compared with about €9 now, the ministry said. The ministry declined to say at what price it would support a takeover or whether it would keep its stake or seek to exit.

### Rolls-Royce seeks boost in China

Luxury carmaker Rolls-Royce expects to achieve double-digit sales growth in China this year, although it will be lower than the 40% rate it saw in 2018, its chief executive said. Torsten Muller-Otvoos was speaking at the Shanghai Autoshow. "We are well set up for again a good growth rate in 2019. We definitely see double-digit growth," said the boss of the luxury carmaker. Rolls-Royce Motor Cars.

### 'Mr Kipling' firm explodes break-up

Mr Kipling cakes firm Premier Foods is expected to press ahead with a break-up of the group in the coming months, it has been under pressure from shareholders. The Press Association understands that the company, which has been under pressure from shareholders, has hired bankers at boutique advisory firm of Angel & Co to manage the process. In February, Premier launched a strategic review, bowing to pressure from investors Oasis Capital, which owns 20% of the group and had called for a radical shake-up. Insiders believe that, while all options are on the table, including a sale, a break-up is now the most likely. Premier is also selling its food production unit, Batchesors soups, Bisto gravy and Oxo cubes.

### Hays quarterly growth stumbles

Recruiter Hays posted quarterly net free growth below market expectations, as its big share, a year-on-year, was hit by slowing growth and a trade split between Beijing and Washington. The staffing company had in February flagged a lower level of contractor extensions in Germany, reducing its overall growth rate, as Eurozone's largest economy reported its weakest growth rate in five years. Hays, which is focused on white-collar jobs, reported a 6% rise in net fees for the third quarter through March, against 10% a year earlier, according to an expectation of 7%, according to Liberum analysts. Shares in the firm fell more than 2.5%.

### US manufacturing output still flat

US manufacturing output was unchanged in March after two straight months of decline, leading to the production decrease in large quarterly since 2017. The Federal Reserve said manufacturing production last month was restrained by weak motor vehicle and wood products output. Data for February was revised up to show a decline at factories falling 0.3% instead of declining 0.4% as previously reported. The largest category, machinery, fell 0.5% in January, as demand dropped at a 1.1% annualised rate in the first quarter. That was the first quarterly drop since the start of the year, and followed a 1.7% pace of increase in the October-December period.

## Kerry Group's model lessons

### Opinion

Joe Gill

The share price of Kerry Group last week touched €100, marking a significant milestone for one of Ireland's success stories in the food industry. Over the past 30 years, Kerry has evolved from a dairy co-op in a relatively poor milk-producing part of the country to being a global innovator and leader in the food and nutrition markets. That journey was supported and encouraged by a group of investors who saw the benefits of taking risks by investing in and growing businesses around the world.

There have been many setbacks along the way, after some divisions failed to perform financially. Instead of being beaten down, the company learned lessons, re-set its objectives, and headed onwards to grow in markets and products that offered the type of returns which would build true shareholder value over time. In 1985, Kerry reported sales of €260m and a pre-tax profit of €5.5m.

It would have been easy to be satisfied with a business model focused on milk commodities, animal feed, pigment, and most recently beef processing. Instead, the management team and board set itself much loftier ambitions. Kerry wanted to go beyond being a relatively small but profitable co-op.

I remember October 1986 when Kerry joined the Irish Stock Exchange using a unique co-op and PLC structure. It was a hard sell convincing seasoned fund managers that this hybrid co-op and company, with its relatively narrow base of products, could deliver for investors.

The share price on joining the exchange was 50 pence. Last year, Kerry reported sales of over €6.6bn and a net profit of €540m. Those who had the stomach to invest in the 1986 IPO, and stay on board, have seen huge growth on their original investment.

The Kerry story is a hugely important one for as a group of Irish entrepreneurs. So often I encounter business of various sizes that are wary about being too ambitious. Many have a comfortable local position, are trading profitably and generate dividends for their owners.

Others are fighting every day to remain competitive in a ruthless market. The Kerry story is essential reading for the next generation of business leaders. ■ Joe Gill is director of origin and corporate broking with Goodbody Stockbrokers. His views are personal.



Eoin MacManus business director, Three, Adrian Begley, Arranmore Business Council, Elaine Carey, chief commercial officer, Three, Seamus Bonner, Arranmore Business Council, at the launch yesterday of a partnership between Three and Arranmore to install state of the art technology connectivity to provide social and economic opportunities to secure the future of the island off the coast of Co Donegal. Picture: Keith Atkins

# Remote island seeks to connect to digital world

Noel Baker in Arranmore

The old pool room in a restaurant is now the forefront of a new initiative between telecoms firm Three Ireland and a local community to transform a Donegal island into the most connected island in the world.

Arranmore — or Arrain Mhór — off the coast of Co Donegal, is the country's second most populated island and is more usually associated with secondary school students learning Irish in the summer. But yesterday saw the launch of the country's first offshore digital hub in a former restaurant which locals believe can boost its economic and social wellbeing and attract home some of the island's huge global diaspora.

Its population of 469 people includes some who have already experienced success in the digital world, but who need greater levels of connectivity to allow them to develop businesses at home. The new digital hub has been established by the Arranmore Business Council, with the support of Donegal County Council, facilitating remote working and video conferencing, in collaboration with Three Ireland, which has provided the necessary infrastructure.

Key to that is the so-called Wireless Leased Line, a dedicated system which provides internet speeds of up



Arranmore island, Co Donegal, is the country's second most populated island and is more usually associated with secondary school students learning Irish in the summer.

to 100Mbps into the Modam building, the former ferryboat restaurant just a walk from the ferry port on the island.

The Modam (Mol Oifig Digiteach Arrain Mhór) was suggested by a local school student, and its initial phase has seen 11 modern computers with curved screens occupying what used to be the pool and video games room in the restaurant.

Adrian Begley, of Arranmore Business Council, said no one was naive enough to expect that the opening of the hub would instantly mean a viable beef sector for potential new entrants. With many beef farmers struggling to break even, young farmer group's policy document is urging a greater spotlight to be placed on farmers' commitments to lowering the sector's carbon footprint. "Changing the beef sector will not be a quick or easy task, but we believe that in this policy we have put together a realistic and achievable roadmap to a more vibrant and profitable beef sector," said Mr Healy.

"For this to come about, it will take a unity of purpose and a commitment from all to making these changes and I call on every-

enterprise director at Three Ireland, said the connection between Modam and a mobile mast on the coast was augmented by improvements to the

"The digital hub itself acts as a showcase but there is more things that we have done," Eoin MacManus said.

Offering one example, he said: "We are talking to the local ferry about putting Wi-Fi on those."

He echoed the views of Mr Begley when he said initiatives such as the digital hub need to be viewed from a number of perspectives. "There's the existing inhabitants not having to go to urban centres for everything; there are the people who have had to move away to create a lifestyle for themselves and can now move back and spend longer holidays here; and those who have never lived here and want to experiment, whether it's to write a book or create or design something."

Mr Begley said the island's longer-term plan is for physical super-speed fibre cable to be connected to the island, and that the initial phase had plenty of scope to expand.

"The plan is that it can be the most connected island in the world. The plan is that it can be the most connected island in the world."

Macra has presented its beef roadmap to the joint Oireachtas Committee on Agriculture, Food and the Marine. It states that broader access to training and advisory services can give beef farmers the knowledge and technical skills needed to safeguard their futures. A commitment by processors to pay young farmers a bonus would recognise the fact that young farmers are the most likely to adapt and put in place the advances in technology that will drive the future of this sector.

Macra also says young farmers would benefit from the formation of EU-recognised producer organisations to negotiate with factories or exporters. This would give beef farmers who don't have the size or scale the bargaining power of large-scale producers.

mobile site on the island itself. Three Ireland broadband equipment has been installed in a local school, meaning students can use interactive whiteboards and participate in online learning, and other buildings including the community centre and the local medical centre which will facilitate telemedical applications including video consultations with consultants on the mainland.

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## Netflix will fail to match forecasts

Vibhuti Sharma

Netflix last night forecast global paid subscriber additions in the second quarter below analysts' estimates, after reporting better-than-expected subscriber additions in the first quarter.

The company said it now expects to add 5m subscribers globally in the current quarter, compared with 5.48m paid subscribers globally, according to Factset estimates.

The second-quarter forecast was also lower than 4.5m subscribers that the company added a year earlier.

In the reported quarter, Netflix added 7.6m new subscribers internationally, compared with the average analyst estimate of 7.14m, according to IBES data from Refinitiv.

The company said it signed up 1.74m new subscribers in the US in the first quarter ended March 31, above the average analyst estimate of about 1.57 million, according to IBES data from Refinitiv.

The company has been adding subscribers at a faster pace, fuelled by higher spending on original shows such as *Stranger Things*, *House of Cards*, *Education* and *Russian Doll*.

Netflix spent \$7.5bn (£6.6bn) on content for 2018 and executives have said that number will grow in 2019.

The additions came against the backdrop of intensifying competition in the streaming services space.

Last week, Disney priced its highly anticipated streaming video service below Netflix.

Netflix shares closed down 1.4%, while those of Disney tumbled an all-time high.

Apple, WarnerMedia and others are also planning new streaming services.

"We don't anticipate that these new entrants will materially affect our growth, because the transition from linear to on-demand entertainment is so massive and because of the differing nature of content offerings", the company said in a statement.

However, Netflix's aggressive spending on content has been accompanied by a tripling of its debt in the last two years to \$10.36bn in 2018 from \$3.36bn in 2016.

Net income rose to \$844.1m, or 76 cents per share, in the first quarter, from \$290.1m, or 64 cents per share, a year earlier.

Total revenue rose to \$4.52bn from \$3.70bn.

Analysts on average had expected revenue of \$4.50bn.

Analysts on average were expecting 57 cents per share.

■ Reuters

## Farming world

### China approves imports from 12th meat plant

Agriculture Minister Michael Creed said a further Irish beef plant has been approved by the Chinese authorities and listed by GACC, the Chinese General Administration of Customs. This brings to 12 the number of Irish meat plants approved for export to China, seven beef plants and five pigmeat plants, since China reopened its beef market to Ireland in 2018. Mr Creed said: "I am very pleased the Chinese officials in GACC have been able to complete this part of the registration process. "This is a testament to my department's work pursuing market access through technical, diplo-

matic and political channels."

"The knock-on benefits to our farmers all across the country is also notable. My focus is now on getting additional beef plants approved and I will also try to progress sheepmeat access to China as part of the trade mission there next month."

Total Irish agri-food trade exports to China reached all-time highs of €7.5bn last year. China is now Ireland's fifth largest market overall.

China was the third largest dairy export market and the second largest pigmeat export market. China is also a growing market for seafood and other food and drink exports.

## Macra: Processor bonus key to future of beef

A bonus to young farmers from processors and access to training can be crucial in creating a viable future for the beef sector, says Macra na Feirme president James Healy. Macra has launched a new 'Sustainable Beef Policy 2019' setting out a roadmap to create a viable beef sector for potential new entrants. With many beef farmers struggling to break even, young farmer group's policy document is urging a greater spotlight to be placed on farmers' commitments to lowering the sector's carbon footprint. "Changing the beef sector will not be a quick or easy task, but we believe that in this policy we have put together a realistic and achievable roadmap to a more vibrant and profitable beef sector," said Mr Healy. "For this to come about, it will take a unity of purpose and a commitment from all to making these changes and I call on every-

one involved in all parts of the sector and the Government to make this commitment."

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## IFA seeks realistic plan to reduce carbon footprint

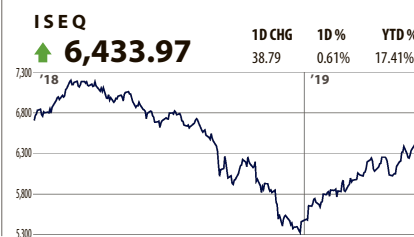
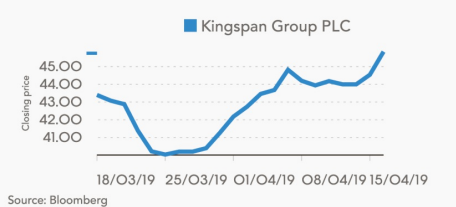
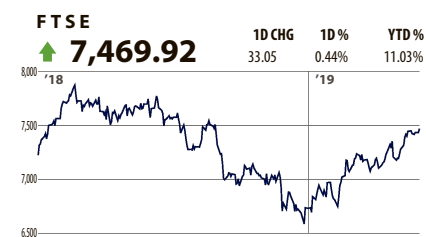
IFA has urged the State to prioritise Teagasc's realistic measures to reduce agriculture's carbon footprint over the Citizens' Assembly's carbon tax model. Agriculture's emissions have fallen 1% since 1990, whereas emissions from sectors such as transport are up 133%. But farming continues to be a scapegoat for inaction by other sectors, said IFA environment chair Thomas Cooney. "212,000 carbon assessments have been completed in Bord Bia's Origin Green. Over 40% of farmers participate in the Green Low Carbon Agri-Environment Scheme. Over 1,000 farmers interact in the voluntary Smart

Farming programme. Yes, agriculture emissions are significant, but that reflects the importance of the sector to the national economy. For a just and realistic climate transition, climate measures must lead to improved farm level profitability."

IFA president, Joe Healy, added: "The recommendations regarding the development of farm-scale and community renewables have the potential to make a real difference. However, this requires changes to grid connection, planning policy, and the design of the renewable electricity support scheme to support farm-scale and community renewables."

## Joe Dermody





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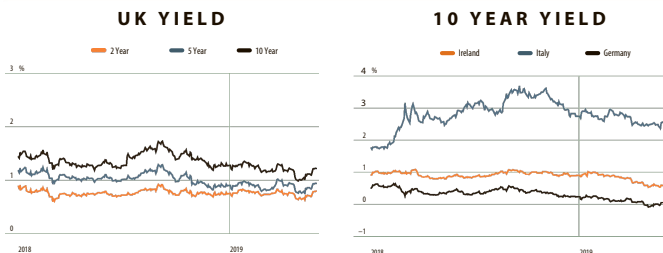
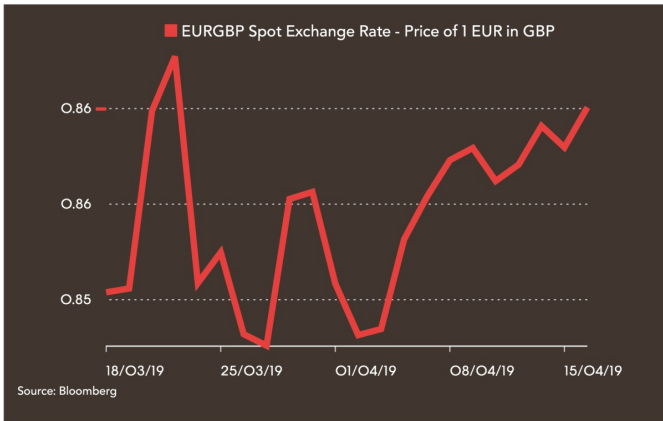
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COMPANY	CLOSE	CHANGE
3i Group PLC	1068.50	5.50
Admiral Group	2281.00	35.00
Anglo American	2178.00	11.00
Antipater PLC	1002.50	0.00
Ashford Group	2166.00	20.00
Associated F&B	2529.00	-12.00
AstraZeneca PLC	6015.00	21.00
Auto Trader	557.40	12.20
Aviva PLC	426.30	7.60
BAC Systems PLC	509.80	5.80
Barclays PLC	167.40	-0.28
Barrett's PLC	623.00	4.20
BAT	3127.00	3.50
Berkley Group	3847.00	-10.00
BHP Group PLC	1909.60	6.80
BP PLC	568.10	-1.80
British Land Co	609.00	2.20
BT Group PLC	229.90	2.55
Bund PLC	251.00	21.00
Barclay's PLC	199.50	-5.50
Camlin PLC	406.00	62.00
Centrica PLC	187.00	-2.05
Coca-Cola HBC	2664.00	7.00
Compagny Group	1725.50	-28.00
CRH PLC	2549.00	29.00
Croda Int'l	5044.00	6.00
DCC PLC	6956.00	58.00
Diageo PLC	3117.50	-3.00
Direct Line Ins	342.10	4.80
DS Smith PLC	352.30	-6.80
easyjet PLC	1205.00	28.50
Enva PLC	659.80	15.00
Experian PLC	2162.00	5.00
Ferguson PLC	5402.00	2.00
Freemantle PLC	779.00	-5.40
Gaumont-MacIntyre	1554.80	4.80
Glenace PLC	334.00	4.00
Glencon PLC	1736.50	11.00
Hargreaves Lansdown	2285.00	37.00
Holma Pharma	1739.00	-4.50
Hiscox Ltd	1643.00	14.00
HSBC	662.80	6.90
Imperial Brands	2593.00	-12.00
Infarma PLC	785.20	3.20
InterContinental	4879.00	40.00
Intersec Group	5228.00	22.00
Cons Airlines	553.00	9.60
ITV PLC	134.15	1.80
J Sainsbury PLC	231.20	-2.90
Johnson Matthey	3400.00	16.00
Just Eat PLC	738.80	5.80
Kingsfisher PLC	239.50	3.70
Land Securities	933.20	6.40
Legal & General	288.40	1.90
Liberty Building	45.84	0.47
London & Scottish	4956.00	73.00
Marlin & Spence	281.50	2.70
Melrose Ind	192.30	1.10
Micro Focus Int	1940.50	-4.50
Molten PLC	1759.00	-45.00
National Grid	875.10	-1.30
Nest PLC	5732.00	44.00
NMC Health PLC	2504.00	12.00
Ocado Group PLC	1407.00	0.00
Paddy's Betfair	6502.00	154.00
Pearson PLC	825.00	-10.80
Perisim Group	2164.00	36.00
Phoenix Group	716.80	9.40
Prudential PLC	1748.50	46.50
Rockwell-Benckor	5874.00	51.00
RELX PLC	1668.50	20.00
Rentokil Ind	368.00	1.20
Rigshaven PLC	540.40	9.30
Rio Tinto PLC	4672.50	-30.00
Rolls-Royce	961.20	10.20
RoyalBeltSched	262.50	0.00
RoyalDutchSHELL	2468.00	0.00
RoyalDutchSHELL	2492.00	1.50
RSA Insurance	543.00	5.00
Sage Group PLC	711.60	3.20
Schroders PLC	3161.00	72.00
ScottishMint	530.50	7.50
Segro PLC	681.80	6.80
Sevens Trent	1974.50	12.00
Smith & Nephew	1489.00	7.50
Smiths Group	1536.50	15.00
Smurfit Kappa	2319.00	20.00
Spirax-Sarco Inc	8040.00	30.00
SSE PLC	1115.00	-2.00
Salomon's Place	1117.00	30.00
Stell Chartered	672.00	1.60
Sidell Aberdeen	274.80	3.00
Taylor Wimpey	190.75	1.10
Tesco PLC	249.70	0.40
Till AG	815.60	20.80
Unilever PLC	4372.00	26.00
United Units	824.00	-0.40
Vodafone Group	142.60	0.10
Whitbread PLC	4831.00	-4.00
Wm Morrisons Supermarket	222.90	-1.50
WPP PLC	909.60	24.40



FTSE EURO

COMPANY	CURRENCY	CLOSE	CHANGE	COMPANY	CURRENCY	CLOSE	CHANGE	COMPANY	CURRENCY	CLOSE	CHANGE
ABB Ltd	CHF	20.11	0.29	Enel SpA	EUR	5.48	-0.10	Philips NV	EUR	35.72	0.03
Adidas	EUR	229.45	2.95	Engie SA	EUR	13.30	-0.02	Prudential PLC	GBP	1748.50	46.50
Air Liquide SA	EUR	116.60	0.65	Eni SpA	EUR	15.43	-0.24	ReckittBenckiser	GBP	5874.00	51.00
Airbus SE	EUR	117.52	0.68	Equinox ASA	NOK	194.50	-2.20	RELX PLC	GBP	1668.50	20.00
Alican Inc	CHF	56.30	1.22	Ericsson	SEK	89.70	-0.62	Richemont	CHF	73.64	1.14
Allianz	EUR	211.55	2.15	Evotec Int'l	EUR	102.75	2.15	Rio Tinto PLC	GBP	4672.50	-30.00
Amadeus	EUR	69.40	-0.30	Freemantle	EUR	59.00	0.03	Roche GS	CHF	269.10	0.30
Anglo American	GBP	2176.00	11.00	GaumontMacIntyre	GBP	1554.80	4.80	Roche Holding	CHF	260.60	0.60
AngloGoldAshanti	EUR	78.99	0.36	Glenace PLC	GBP	334.00	4.00	RoyalDutchSHELL	GBP	2468.00	0.00
ASML Holding NV	EUR	180.20	3.14	Helenius NV	EUR	93.72	-0.78	RoyalDutchSHELL	GBP	2492.00	1.50
AstraZeneca PLC	GBP	6015.00	21.00	Henkel VZ	EUR	88.50	0.96	Safar SA	EUR	121.65	0.40
Atlas Copco A	SEK	276.00	1.50	HermesHb Co KSAa	EUR	82.75	1.35	Santofi	EUR	75.10	0.10
Atlas Copco B	SEK	255.00	1.00	Hermes Int'l	EUR	604.60	4.60	SAP	EUR	99.28	-0.51
AXA SA	EUR	21.55	0.09	HSBC	GBP	662.80	6.90	Schneider ElSe	EUR	74.08	0.20
Banco Bilbao	EUR	5.53	0.05	Iberdrola	EUR	7.72	-0.07	Siemens	EUR	104.42	0.80
Banco Santander	EUR	4.57	0.01	Imperial Brands	GBP	2503.00	-12.00	SiemensHealthins	EUR	38.71	0.26
Barclays PLC	GBP	167.40	-0.28	Inditex	EUR	27.03	0.49	St. Charles	GBP	672.60	0.60
BAF	EUR	72.87	0.57	ING Group	EUR	12.65	0.11	Swiss Re AG	CHF	102.10	1.25
Bayer	GBP	3127.00	3.50	Intesa Sanpaolo	EUR	2.32	0.02	Telefonica	EUR	7.40	-0.06
BBT	EUR	62.23	0.49	Investor AB	SEK	433.20	1.20	Telcel	NOK	172.45	-0.80
BHP Group PLC	GBP	1909.60	6.80	Investor AB	SEK	435.40	1.40	Telefonica	SEK	91.50	-0.40
BMW	EUR	76.28	0.73	NRG Group NV	EUR	67.48	0.08	TOTAL SA	EUR	40.56	-0.51
BMW Prof	EUR	66.59	0.85	Kering SA	EUR	532.50	1.30	UBS Group AG	CHF	12.11	0.13
BNP Paribas SA	EUR	47.66	0.81	LafargeHolcim	CHF	52.26	0.06	Unicredit SpA	EUR	12.88	0.40
BP PLC	GBP	568.10	-1.80	Lloyds Banking	GBP	65.84	0.67	Unilever NV	EUR	59.05	0.13
BT Group PLC	GBP	229.90	2.55	L'Oréal	EUR	240.30	1.80	Unilever PLC	GBP	4372.00	26.00
Compagny Group	GBP	1725.50	-28.00	LMVH	EUR	346.30	3.35	Vind SA	EUR	89.80	0.50
Continental	EUR	154.40	1.70	Manchener Ruck	EUR	219.80	-1.15	Vivendi SA	EUR	25.83	-0.54
Credit Agricole	EUR	12.37	0.17	National Grid	GBP	818.10	-3.30	Vodafone Group	GBP	142.60	0.10
Credit Suisse	CHF	13.31	0.25	Nestlé	CHF	94.90	0.54	Volkswagen AG	EUR	159.90	1.95
Daimler	EUR	56.87	0.44	Nokia OYJ	EUR	5.01	0.01	VW VZ	EUR	147.15	0.65
Danone SA	EUR	69.68	-0.30	Nordea Bank Abp	EUR	7.56	0.04	VW VZ	EUR	155.86	0.40
DassaultSystemes	EUR	134.10	-0.30	Novartis AG	CHF	80.86	-0.20	Zurich Ins	CHF	325.00	4.40
Deutsche Post	EUR	30.42	-0.02	Novo Nordisk A	DKK	331.25	-1.15				
Diageo PLC	GBP	3117.50	-3.00	Orange SA	EUR	14.58	-0.06				
De Telecom	EUR	14.97	0.08	Orsted A	DKK	500.00	-8.80				
Electricite	EUR	12.64	0.16	Pernod Ricard	EUR	156.10	-2.85				

CURRENCY	CLOSE	CHANGE
EUR	1.1558	0.0000
GBP	0.8600	0.0000
USD	0.7666	0.0000
AUD	0.5887	0.0000
NZD	0.5179	0.0000
CAD	0.5741	0.0000
HKD	0.0877	0.0000
PLN	0.2625	0.0000
CHF	0.7069	0.0000
CNY	0.1142	0.0000
JPY	0.0089	0.0000
SEK	0.0829	0.0000
NOK	0.0983	0.0000
INR	0.0110	0.0000
CZK	0.0337	0.0000
EUR	1.1287	1.3045
GBP	0.7171	0.7489
USD	0.6757	0.7489
AUD	0.5179	0.5887
NZD	0.4611	0.5179
CAD	0.5179	0.5741
HKD	0.0877	0.0877
PLN	0.2625	0.2625
CHF	0.7069	0.7069
CNY	0.1142	0.1142
JPY	0.0089	0.0089
SEK	0.0829	0.0829
NOK	0.0983	0.0983
INR	0.0110	0.0110
CZK	0.0337	0.0337
EUR	1.1558	1.1558
GBP	0.8600	0.8600
USD	0.7666	0.7666
AUD	0.5887	0.5887
NZD	0.5179	0.5179
CAD	0.5741	0.5741
HKD	0.0877	0.0877
PLN	0.2625	0.2625
CHF	0.7069	0.7069
CNY	0.1142	0.1142
JPY	0.0089	0.0089
SEK	0.0829	0.0829
NOK	0.0983	0.0983
INR	0.0110	0.0110
CZK	0.0337	0.0337

ISEQ								
COMPANY	CLOSE	CHANGE	12 MONTH HIGH	12 MONTH LOW	P/E RATIO	DIVIDEND YIELD	MARKET CAP (M)	VOLUME (000s)
1st Derivatives	25.80	0.00	53.00	22.50	69.44	0.92	676.84	5
Abbey PLC	14.50	0.00	15.30	13.00	6.32	1.31	310.37	38
ABP Group PLC	4.22	0.00	5.29	3.50	10.66	4.03	11449.26	220385
Aerovox PLC	0.01	0.00	0.04	0.01			49.02	10841
Amyris Pharma	0.15	0.00	0.24	0.13			41.22	1834
Applegreen PLC	5.42	0.04	6.76	5.26	39.15	0.28	653.74	5617
Aryzta AG	1.21	-0.04	4.13	0.87			1196.69	157529
Bank of Ireland	5.96	-0.09	7.64	4.78	10.34	2.68	6429.78	177169
C&C Group PLC	3.38	0.04	3.60	2.60	14.43	4.35	1048.54	192255
Cain Homes PLC	1.36	0.02	1.87	1.00	34.27		1075.90	170409
Giri Resources	6.60	-0.05	7.20	5.44	10.11	2.30	181.13	23100
CRH PLC	29.61	0.33	33.09	21.71	17.34	2.43	29944.07	92880
Dalata Hotel	6.12	0.13	7.35	4.29	14.97	2.29	1128.22	194024
Datalys PLC	0.80	-0.05	3.14	0.55	9.29	5.36	62.79	14352
Donegal Invest	9.50	0.10	9.75	8.25	4.02		39.64	187
FBD Holdings	8.72	0.02	11.90	7.80	7.11	5.73	304.00	52524
Glanbia PLC	17.31	-0.21	19.38	13.48	21.83	1.40	5124.55	308948
Glenagh Prop	0.84	0.02	1.24	0.65			735.41	2220462
Green REIT plc	1.70	0.06	1.70	1.33	8.65	3.30	1187.70	568437
Greenacres REITs	1.06	-0.03	1.10	1.01	8.17	5.58	559.00	349549
Greiffenberger REIT	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.00			2.93	15000
Hibernia REIT	1.37	0.00	1.57	1.22	9.44	2.49	963.34	1990387
Hostelworld	2.26	0.00	4.52	1.84	43.28	5.48	215.99	385
IFG Group PLC	2.16	0.00	2.24	1.41			227.68	800
Indefinites&M	-							0
Irish Cont'l	5.01	0.01	5.82	4.16	16.48		447	953.22
IrishIndustPhdp	1.59	0.01	1.64	1.33	5.67	3.77	691.17	354
Kenmare Res	2.32	0.00	2.95	2.06	5.65		254.28	27
Kerry Group PLC	97.30	-0.70	100.30	82.25	31.81	0.72	17166.17	374
Kingspan Group	45.84	1.30	46.90	34.02	24.91	0.92	8299.09	361
Manitex Mcd	3.82	0.00	16.50	2.50			335.1	1
Malin Group PLC	5.35	0.00	8.45	3.86			244.39	39
Mullin Group	1.27	0.00	1.25	1.10	19.69	1.72	267.39	75
Origo Energy PLC	1.88	0.04	6.40	0.58	17.62	3.83	68.90	18
Oranmore Mining	0.04	0.00	0.07	0.02			18.49	19
Oreco Bio PLC	0.09	0.00	0.13	0.07			73.20	16
Paddy Power	75.04	1.42	105.00	63.05	27.41	3.05	5861.98	19
Pemberton FSR	1.30	0.02	2.22	1.20			91.10	5813
Petroleum Ref	0.01	0.00	0.03	0.01			8.49	13
Providence Res	0.15	0.00	0.22	0.11			90.55	108
Pyxaris	12.18	0.20	16.98	9.55	12.35		13804.75	1825
Scopus Group	2.02	0.00	2.12	1.65	39.38	0.92	59.98	29
Smartfit Kaps	26.75	0.05	37.34	21.38		3.65	6553.12	508
Total Produce	1.59	-0.01	2.43	1.33	16.81	2.16	616.65	1703
VRIS Education	0.15	0.00	0.32	0.10			28.67	9
Yew Grove REIT	1.00	0.00	1.07	0.98	24.21	4.42	74.93	14



## 'Politicians pelted' for boat tragedy fundraiser

David Raleigh

A mother who witnessed a boating tragedy unfold last February, which left Limerick girl Amy Mulcahy fighting for her life, has organised a 'Pelt a Politician' fundraiser, bucket collection, and table quiz to support the girl's "long road to recovery".

Amy, 12, was in a rowing boat with four friends when it overturned on a stretch of the River Shannon on February 23.

Amy was trapped under the water surface for several minutes after her hair became entangled in the boat's outriggers. She remains in a serious but stable condition at Temple Street Children's Hospital in Dublin.

Local mother of two Mary Hogan, who cannot swim, said she came upon the unfolding tragedy after hearing her son, who had raced to the riverbank, trying to calm Amy's friends, who "would not leave the boat" without her.

"I couldn't do a thing, I can't swim. We couldn't do anything for her on the day so we are doing it now. Now is our time to step up and help that child," she said.

"The screams of those children trying to save their friend — it will haunt me for the rest of my life. Those children were so brave. They did not leave their friend and I thought that was so commendable."

"I have never witnessed something so sad in my life."

Ms Hogan said she has organised an "old-fashioned" family fun day, which will incorporate traditional carnival-style games, at St Mary's Aid, Nicholas St, Limerick, from 10am to 5pm on April 20.

Ms Hogan said she has enlisted the help of local Sinn Féin TD Maurice Quinlivan and Sinn Féin councillor John Costelloe for what could prove to be a key attraction on the day.

"We have a framed cut-out where you put your head in, and somebody batters you with water balloons," said Mr Quinlivan.

"I'm calling it 'Pelt a Politician'. I have lots of sponges. The craic will be 90."

## Being neighbourly



War horse brings the magic of theatre to Temple Street. Character Baby Joey from the acclaimed production meets patient Jake Shakespeare and Mirka Shakespeare at Temple Street University Hospital, Dublin. Picture: Brian McEvoy

## Village's bars again closed Good Friday

Louise Walsh

Pubs in a Meath village have agreed to stay closed on Good Friday for the second year to mark a 'long-standing tradition'.

The three pubs in Drumconrath will remain shut this Friday and ignore the legislation, which allowed all pubs to legally serve alcohol last year for the first time in 90 years.

Last year's opening Good Friday was hailed as a huge success by customers and the majority of villagers.

But not so in Drumconrath, where publicans Dermot Muldoon, Pauline Fay, and Pat Dempsey say they haven't changed their minds and will continue to close up every Good Friday.

"Publicans get two days off in the whole year — just two — so we decided to keep that holiday, as well as keeping up the tradition and having a bit of respect for our religion," said Dermot.

"Last year, we got a lot of support from our customers, the majority of whom would observe fasting on the day and stay off the drink anyway."

"We said it, last year, that we would close and nothing has changed. What's wrong with a day off? It was a tradition among publicans here to spend the day with their own families."

"It was something different about Ireland, that we were known for, and that's all gone now. I used to always go up to Crossmaglen



Dermot Muldoon and Pauline Fay let it be known there is no drink in Drumconrath, Co Meath, on Good Friday. Picture: Seamus Farrelly

with my father and have something to eat and a chat with people, so I'll still go up there on Friday and do the same with my children.

"I might even have a drink

said the day enables bar owners to completely switch off and spend the day with family."

"Quality of life has no price. I always spent the day with my children and continue to do so. We're not opening because someone in Dublin says so."

"When you lose a tradition, you lose it for life. This year, again, myself and my daughter will do the stations of the cross, before doing a bit of shopping together. I don't think a bit of religion does anyone any harm," Ms Fay said.

"I've received 100% backing from my customers, some of whom have said that even if I was open, they wouldn't come in," she added.

Pauline Fay, of Fay's Bar,

## Unlikely to be any changes to M20 route

Sean O'Riordan

The most senior roads engineer in Co Cork says he doubts there will be any change in the route previously chosen for the Cork-Limerick motorway (M20), despite consultants being paid €15m to revisit it.

Padraig Barrett, Cork County Council's director of roads, also said he is pushing to have the northern relief road in Mallow treated as a separate project, after councillors expressed fears the M20 might not be completed until at least 2027.

Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) recently awarded a €15m contract to consultants to design a route between the two cities, even though one was drawn up in late 2010, before the government decided to mothball the project due to the recession.

Members of the council's northern division have questioned why the new design was costing so much when one was already gathering dust for the 100km motorway, expected to cost €800m to construct.

Cllr Ian Doyle said businesses and landowners along the route were also querying the amount being paid for the consultants.

"A house you designed 10 years ago is now out of date, environmental and planning regulations have changed so we are legally obliged to do this (revisit the original plans). The route determined the last time was found to be the best route based on the information available. It's too early to say if it will be the same route, but I'd be surprised if it wasn't," Mr Barrett told a meeting of the council's northern division in Mallow.

He said council engineers

had recently met with the newly appointed consultants and provided them with all the original reports.

Mr Barrett said he hoped the chosen route would be known by the end of next year.

Cllr Gerard Murphy maintained that as most of the paperwork and research was already completed, the tender price given to the consultants should have been much lower.

"There was a substantial amount of work done on route selection previously. But it was specific for that route. That information was supplied to the consultants, so they have that bank of data which will be updated. They would have priced (their tender) knowing that information was available," Mr Barrett said.

Cllr Gearoid Murphy said he hoped Mr Barrett was right about the route because there was concern the two cities would be linked by building a new motorway connecting to Limerick off the M6 at Cahir, Co Tipperary, which he said would be "an absolute disaster". Cllr Gerard Murphy said that was "not an option" as it would have a serious economic consequences for the North Cork region.

He added he was glad to hear Mr Barrett say the council wants to plough ahead with building the Mallow relief road, as the town and the North Cork region could not wait until 2027 for it.

Mr Barrett said the council is preparing plans and an economic assessment aimed at convincing TII that it is vital the Mallow relief road is viewed as a separate project from the M20 and as such should be fast-tracked.

# RUN WITH THE REBELS!

SUNDAY 2<sup>nd</sup> June



Irish Examiner  
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GRETA (15A)	THURS 18TH 6.30PM	THURS 18TH 7.00PM	THURS 18TH 7.00PM	THURS 18TH 7.00PM
WILD ROSE (15A)	4.00 4.15 9.30PM	6.30 8.45PM	6.30 8.45PM	6.30 8.45PM
LITTLE (12A)	11.30AM 2.00 4.15PM	4.00 6.30 9.00PM	4.00 6.30 9.00PM	4.00 6.30 9.00PM
WONDER PARK (PG)	4.45 6.40 9.15PM	11.30AM 1.45 4.15PM	11.30AM 1.45 4.15PM	11.30AM 1.45 4.15PM
HELLBOY (10)	6.15PM	9.45 6.15 9.15PM	9.45 6.15 9.15PM	9.45 6.15 9.15PM
THE SISTER'S BROTHERS (15A)	THURS 2.30 5.45 9.00PM	11.30AM 2.30 5.30 8.30PM	11.30AM 2.30 5.30 8.30PM	11.30AM 2.30 5.30 8.30PM
SHAZAM! (12A)	WED 17TH 6.45PM	11.30AM 1.45PM	11.30AM 1.45PM	11.30AM 1.45PM
THE MAN WHO WANTED TO FLY (12A)	11.30AM 1.30PM	11.30AM 1.30PM	11.30AM 1.30PM	11.30AM 1.30PM
MISSING LINK (PG)	11.30AM 2.00PM	9.15PM	9.15PM	9.15PM
PEPPA PIG: FESTIVAL OF FUN (GEN)	WED 9.15PM THURS 6.45 9.15PM	WED 11.30AM 1.45 4.15 6.40PM THURS 11.30AM 1.45 4.15PM	WED 11.30AM 1.45 4.15 6.40PM THURS 11.30AM 1.45 4.15PM	WED 11.30AM 1.45 4.15 6.40PM THURS 11.30AM 1.45 4.15PM
PET SEMATARY (16)	9.15PM	9.15PM	9.15PM	9.15PM
DUMBO (PG)	WED 11.30AM 1.45 4.15 6.40PM THURS 11.30AM 1.45 4.15PM	WED 11.30AM 1.45 4.15 6.40PM THURS 11.30AM 1.45 4.15PM	WED 11.30AM 1.45 4.15 6.40PM THURS 11.30AM 1.45 4.15PM	WED 11.30AM 1.45 4.15 6.40PM THURS 11.30AM 1.45 4.15PM
US (16)	9.15PM	9.15PM	9.15PM	9.15PM
CAPTAIN MARVEL (12A)	11.30AM	11.30AM	11.30AM	11.30AM

**UPCOMING EVENTS @ THE GATE CINEMAS**

THE ROYAL OPERA: FAUST TUES 30TH APRIL 2019 6.45PM (GATE CORK & MIDLETON)  
THE ROYAL BALLET: WITHIN THE GOLDEN HOUR NEW CHEVROKOV ALBERT PATRICH THURS 18TH MAY 7.15PM (GATE CORK & MIDLETON)  
MATTHEW BOURNE'S SWAN LAKE TUES 21ST MAY 2.00 + 6.30PM (GATE CORK)  
EXHIBITION ON SCREEN: VAN GOGH & CO TUES 4TH JUNE 6.30PM (GATE CORK, MIDLETON & MALLO)  
TACTICS: GREATEST HITS SAT 8TH JUNE 2019 9.00PM (GATE CORK, MIDLETON & MALLO)  
WESTLIFE: THE TWENTY FOUR LIVE FROM CRUISE PARK SAT 6TH JULY 9.00PM (GATE CORK, MIDLETON & MALLO)  
THE ROYAL BALLET: ROBERT AND JULIE THURS 11TH JUNE 7.15PM (GATE CORK & MIDLETON)  
THE MERRY WIVES OF WINDSOR LIVE FROM SHAKESPEARE'S GLOBE THURS 20TH JUNE 7.20PM (GATE CORK, MIDLETON & MALLO)  
ANDRE RIEU 2019 MAASTRICHT CONCERT: SMALL WE DANCE SAT 27TH JULY 7.00PM (GATE CORK, MIDLETON & MALLO)  
ANDRE RIEU 2019 MAASTRICHT CONCERT: SMALL WE DANCE SUNDAY 28TH JULY 3.00PM (GATE CORK, MIDLETON & MALLO)  
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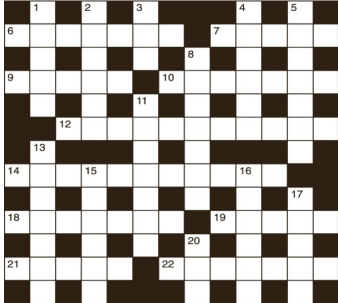
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## WIZARD OF ID

### Double Crossword



#### Solutions to previous puzzle:

**CRYPTIC**  
Across: 1 Absolutely; 7 Extra; 8 Waist; 10 Striking; 11 Harp; 13 Meagre; 15 Mousse; 17 Spot; 18 Portland; 21 Slipper; 22 Order; 23 Ingredient  
Down: 1 Actor; 2 Stalkers; 3 Law; and 4 Toss; 5 Larriots; 6 Peasants; 9 Lip-readers; 12 Footnote; 14 Aeolian; 16 Poured; 19 Audit; 20 Spur.  
**QUICK**  
Across: 1 Favourite; 7 Frail; 8 Disband; 10 Entirely; 11 Bias; 13 Infall; 15 Danger; 17 Avoir; 18 Excavate; 21 Edifice; 22 Ghoul; 23 Investment  
Down: 1 Feast; 2 Valorous; 3 Unduly; 4 Also; 5 Leading; 6 Feminine; 9 Disorderly; 12 Harangue; 14 Emotions; 16 Expert; 19 About; 20 Wise.

Quick Crossword answers also fit the large grid

#### QUICK CLUES

- Across**  
6 Valour (7)  
7 Gladly (5)  
8 Under (3)  
10 Quarrel (7)  
12 Acknowledgement  
14 Temper (11)  
18 Free (7)  
19 Spin (5)  
21 Wrong (6)  
22 Travel (7)
- Down**  
1 Revolt (5)  
2 Facetious (6)  
3 Enquire (9)  
4 Marionette (6)  
5 Made up (4)  
8 Stateliness (7)  
9 Owen (7)  
13 Quinary (7)  
15 Delight (6)  
16 Advancing (6)  
17 Avance (5)  
20 Task (3)

#### CRYPTIC CLUES

- Across**  
6 Don't stop the wrong persons (5,2)  
7 Robbery list included a precious stone (5)  
9 Fish seems to be off (5)  
10 Stand up, perhaps, to get sweeping aid (7)  
12 Hardly dark thoughts! (6,5)  
14 Entered before the others and won (4,2,5)  
18 Latches redesigned for a schoolbag (7)  
19 Jar - in which to put coal (5)  
21 Range of a policeman in the South East (5)  
22 Select the French preserves (7)
- Down**  
1 Play involving a doctor and a mother? (5)  
2 He could well be the best man to be the groom (6)  
3 An addition to the family? (3)  
4 This means, strangely enough (6)  
5 They took over from the night shift (7)  
6 Support us in shame (7)  
11 In age so twisted, suffering pains (7)  
13 Financially, it enables you to stand on your own feet! (7)  
15 Welcome break for prisoner? (6)  
16 Yet it may mean miners work harder (6)  
17 To return to her is not the same (5)  
20 Produce the rent (3)

**April 17**  
National day of Syria. Feast day of St Donnan, St Aybert, St Stephen Harding, St Innocent of Tortona, St Malpasius and Others, and St Robert of Chaise-Dieu.  
1521: The Diet of Worms excommunicated German Church reformer Martin Luther.  
1937: A British attendance record at a football match was set when 149,547 people watched Scotland v England at Hampden Park, Glasgow.  
1956: Premium Bonds were launched by Chancellor Harold Macmillan.  
1957: Archbishop Makarios returned to Greece after over a year in exile in the Seychelles.  
1960: American rock star Eddie Cochran died in a car crash near Chippewham while on tour with Gene Vincent.  
1969: The age at which a person is eligible to vote in Britain was lowered from 21 to 18.  
1975: The Cambodian communist Khmer Rouge captured the capital, Phnom Penh.  
1980: Southern Rhodesia became Zimbabwe.  
1984: Po Yvonne Fletcher was shot dead outside the Libyan People's Bureau in central London. She had been policing a small demonstration outside the embassy.  
2006: A Palestinian suicide bomber detonated an explosive device in a Tel Aviv restaurant, killing 11 people and injuring 70.  
2013: An explosion at a fertiliser plant in the city of West, Texas, killed 15 people and injured 160 others.  
2014: NASA's Kepler space observatory confirmed the discovery of the first Earth-size planet in the habitable zone of another star.

**On This Day Last Year**  
Eight people went on trial in Navarra, Spain, accused of terrorism after an alleged attack on two Civil Guards in a controversial case with the prosecution seeking a total 375 years imprisonment for the defendants. The defence claimed the incident was nothing more than a bar brawl and Amnesty International described the charges as "inappropriate".  
**Birthdays**  
Henry Kelly, DJ and game show host, 73; Jan Hammer, composer, 71; Olivia Hussey, actress, 68; Nick Hornby, novelist, 62; Brian Bean, actor, 60; Muthiah Muralitharan, former cricketer, 47; Victoria Beckham, singer, fashion designer, businesswoman, 45.

East-West vulnerable, South deals

**NORTH**  
♠ K Q 9  
♥ K  
♦ K J 5 3  
♣ K J 7 6 4

**EAST**  
♠ 10 3 2  
♥ J 7 6 2  
♦ 8 7 2  
♣ 9 2

**SOUTH**  
♠ A 8 7 6  
♥ A Q 10 9 3  
♦ Q 10  
♣ A 5

**WEST**  
♠ 5 4  
♥ J 7 6 2  
♦ A 9 6 4  
♣ 10 8 3

**THE BIDDING:**  
SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST  
1H Pass 2C Pass  
2S Pass 3D Pass  
3NT Pass 4NT Pass  
SNT All pass

**Opening lead:** Four of D

Today's deal is from a recent competition in Europe. The actual auction was too complicated for a column, so we substituted the auction above.  
Sorry if you disapprove, but they had to get to slam somehow or there would have been no bridge column today.  
West led a tricky low diamond, to no effect on this deal.  
South won with the queen and continued with the 10 of diamonds. West won with his ace and shifted to a spade, won with dummy's king.  
Declarer now accurately cashed his winners in the proper order.

## HOROSCOPES

### ARIES

March 21 - April 20

There's so much new information to gobble up when you are observant of people and places. However, your vulnerability to distractions grows as the initial rush of your enthusiasm dissipates. Make a concerted effort to stay mentally connected to your surroundings and the glimmer of shiny objects lures. Others sit up and take notice when you're so keen to see what you perceive today. Channel your passion into your work.

### TAURUS

April 21 - May 21

Disruptions aren't usually to your liking. Your instinct is to be calm and centered, come what may. Anything shakes your inner balance, you're likely to charge about in a ferocious fury of activity that's aimed at getting you back into your happy spot as a swiftly as possible. Thankfully, putting a philosophical spin on what happens today helps you to quickly restore order. At your best, you are an embodiment of patience.

### GEMINI

May 22 - June 21

Your ability to read the room is off the charts today. Your powerful persuasion when making a presentation is something akin to extra sensory perception. A deal can be almost effortlessly sealed when engaging in negotiations. As friends toss around ideas about where to eat or what movie to see, it's your choice that likely was the vote. Fitting in nearly any place you go presents you with some unique opportunities.

### CANCER

June 22 - July 23

Similarities in background might bring you closer to someone in a position of authority today. Details that come up in casual conversation match an deeper unconscious alignment and provide an inroad to persuade someone should you choose to take it. The direction. The extra attention that's showered on you puts your work on display and lets your talents shine. Professional recognition elevates your confidence.

### LEO

July 24 - August 23

Open one door and many more are unrolled. Relinquish any deeply ingrained preconception that education is limited solely to formal classrooms or official institutions. If you take even one little step in the direction of a subject you want to study, a multitude of options will appear. Learn a language through direct immersion, take a class at your local community center, or explore an online course. Expand your mind.

### VIRGO

August 24 - September 23

Your ears perk up when you overhear something intriguing today. Or maybe it's a glimpse of an unusual sight that makes your eyes pop open wide. Whatever the specifics, if an odd bolt makes its way to your radar screen, it may raise lots of questions about what to do next. There are times when a tantalizing bit of information can be dangerous because it causes the mind to make mountains out of molehills.

### LIBRA

September 24 - October 23

You might feel like a mind reader at times today, especially when that certain someone is around. Use your ability to pick up on subtle cues as an asset, but don't go overboard. You own too much into what you don't know for sure. Dish the kind of feedback or support that you personally find meaningful and let others take their own path. You're trying to assist. Let your compassion be your guide.

### SCORPIO

October 24 - November 22

You may have a larger-than-average load of everyday responsibilities on your shoulders today. Nevertheless, while you consider the tasks at hand, speculation about life's big mysteries might be racing through your mind. It could be that a dream sets this mood into motion. Or maybe it's the warm memory of a loved one who has passed to the other side that has you thinking in this way. Your aura glows with gratitude.

### SAGITTARIUS

November 23 - December 21

You're perfectly comfortable with letting a little bit of ego seep into your communications, communications, or creative work. It's not a matter of showing off, but the thick of things. You have a profound understanding of a style that's uniquely your own. You're not about to blend into the crowd or fade into the woodwork today. Your words and actions are empowered when infused with that special flair that only you can give them.

### CAPRICORN

December 22 - January 20

You find yourself on a sentimental journey before you realize what is happening. Stepping back from some of the complicated chapters of your history allows for an objectivity that's impossible when you're emotionally connected. The thick of things. You have a profound understanding of a style that's uniquely your own. You're not about to blend into the crowd or fade into the woodwork today. Your words and actions are empowered when infused with that special flair that only you can give them.

### AQUARIUS

January 21 - February 19

Style can be as important as substance when wowing an audience. And whether you're interacting with one person or an auditorium filled with listeners, you have plenty of both to share today. With reflected wheels turning at an impressive pace, nearly everything you say comes across with perfect pizzazz, whether witty or wise. Your success can be a terrific reason for celebration. Use your charm and charisma.

### PISCES

February 20 - March 20

Most of your togetherness thinking focuses on financial planning and money-making ideas today. Conversations with your mate or another trusted confidante can become intricate when the topic is dollars and cents. You may find yourself so deeply involved in the meaning, like your longing for a home of your own or your desire to visit the land of beloved ancestors. Ambition fuels the engine of progress.

Starting from 1, fill in the grid in a clockwise direction with four-letter words. The last letter of each word becomes the first letter of the next word. If you have correctly filled in the grid there should be a seven-letter key word reading across from 8.

**CLUES:**

1. Faucets 2. Potato
3. Business transaction
4. Patterned openwork fabric
5. Simple 6. Scream 7. Fibs
8. Hair's tail 9. Of Thailand
10. Order of worship
11. Plently 12. Lather
13. Graffiti competitor
14. Silencing plan
15. Towboats 16. Difficulty

**Key word clue:** Bird

## Satellite and Cable Extra

Sky One	Sky Cinema Drama	Sky Cinema Family	Sky Cinema Action	GOLD
6.00 RSCA Animal Rescue (S) 6.30 RSCA Animal Rescue (S) 7.00 Animal House (S) 7.30 Animal House (S) 8.00 Money Life (S) 8.30 Monkeys and Apes: Wild Files 9.15 50 Beasts! 9.30 Play Your Pets Right 9.45 Big Cats: Wild Files 10.00 The Athens 10.30 The Simpsons (S) 10.50 Modern Family (S) 11.00 Modern Family (S) 11.30 Modern Family (S) 12.00 NCIS: Los Angeles (S) 12.30 Hawaii Five-0 (S) 12.50 Hawaii Five-0 (S) 1.00 Modern Family (S) 1.30 Modern Family (S) 1.50 The Simpsons (S) 2.00 The Simpsons (S) 2.30 Futurama (S) 2.50 Futurama (S) 3.00 Futurama (S) 3.30 The Simpsons (S) 3.50 The Simpsons (S) 4.00 The Simpsons (S) 4.30 The Simpsons (S) 4.50 The Simpsons (S) 5.00 The Simpsons (S) 5.30 The Simpsons (S) 5.50 The Simpsons (S) 6.00 Futurama (S) 6.30 Futurama (S) 6.50 Futurama (S) 7.00 Futurama (S) 7.30 Futurama (S) 7.50 Futurama (S) 8.00 DC's Legends of Tomorrow 8.30 DC's Legends of Tomorrow 8.50 DC's Legends of Tomorrow 9.00 DC's Legends of Tomorrow 9.30 DC's Legends of Tomorrow 9.50 DC's 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## RTÉ One

**6.00 EURONEWS 7.35** Teleshopping 8.10 Today with Maura and Dáithí (S) **10.05** The Ellen DeGeneres Show (S) Weather, 11.55 Shortland Street (S) **12.25** Doctors (S) **1.00** RTE News: One O'Clock and Weather (S) **1.30** Home and Away (S) **2.00** Neighbours (S) **2.25** EastEnders (S) **3.00** Fair City (S) **3.30** Today with Maura and Dáithí (S) **5.40** Nuacht RTE News with Signing and European Weather. **6.01** RTE NEWS: SIX ONE AND WEATHER (S) **7.00** NATIONWIDE (S) **7.30** DESPERATE HOUSES The team deciphers a mid-century three-bedroom home in Levitt, Co. Kildare. (S) **8.00** FAIR CITY Tommy unearths the truth about Zak. (S) **8.30** GROW, COOK, EAT Michael Kalk demonstrates how to grow French beans. (S)



• Brendan O'Connor's Cutting Edge RTE One, 9.35pm

**9.00 RTE NEWS: NINE O'CLOCK AND WEATHER (S)** **9.35** BRENDAN O'CONNOR'S CUTTING EDGE With Mike Ross, Mairead Ronan and Niamh Horan. (S) **10.35** ALL ROUND TO MRS BROWN'S Agnes and the family are joined by sports presenter Clare Balding, comedian Johnny Vegas, and Made in Chelsea stars Jamie Laing and Spencer Matthews. (S) **11.45** IN THE CLUB Roanna reluctance turns to Ray for help. (S) **12.55** CREEDON'S ROAD TRIP (S) **1.55** IRELAND'S FITTEST FAMILY (S) **2.50** OPERATION TRANSFORMATION **3.45** SAY YES TO THE DRESS (S) **4.10** DANIEL AND MAJELLA'S B&B ROAD TRIP (S) **4.40** GETAWAYS (S) (S) Subtitles Teletext page 888

## RTÉ 2

**6.00 EURONEWS 7.00** TRTÉ **10.50** FILM FREE WILLY 2: 12.30 The Simpsons (S) **HOME (1995)** Family adventure, starring Jason James Richter. (S) **12.35** TRTÉ 4.00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show (S) **5.00** The Simpsons (S) **5.30** The Simpsons (S) **6.00** NEIGHBOURS Mark launches an investigation into the identity of the driver who almost killed Susan and Imogen. A suspect emerges in Finn's ex-wife Miranda, who seems to have had a motive. (S) **6.30** HOME AND AWAY Dean breaks into the mailbox to retrieve the letter, while Willow and Ziggy are concerned for his wellbeing. Raffi makes a decision about school after struggling with assignments. (S) **7.00** THE BIG BANG THEORY After being forced to deal with a sick Sheldon, the rest of the gang try to treat themselves to a Sheldon-free weekend. (S) **7.25** SAVING LIVES AT SEA A climber falls in a remote cave on the Gower Peninsula, so the Mumbles crew are called in, and in Portlath, lifeguards struggle to save a teenager who is determined to surf. (S) **8.35** GRAND DESIGNS: HOUSE OF THE YEAR New series. Kevin McCloud presents a series exploring Britain's contemporary and cutting-edge homes, all of which are in the running for the Riba House of the Year Award 2015. (S) **9.35** KILLING EVE Carolyn introduces Eve to her new team before Eve briefs them on the Villanelle case. Meanwhile, Villanelle finds someone to take care of her while she recovers. (S) **10.30** STACEY DOGGLES: SHOT BY MY NEIGHBOUR The presenter meets the people in the North of Ireland who are shot in the legs or assaulted by vigilante groups from their own neighbourhoods. (S) **11.25** HOME FROM HOME Neil leads his family and friends on a perilous mountain walk, and he and Penny soon become separated from the others. (S) **World Forecast** **12.05** THE HANDMAID'S TALE (S) **1.15** ELEMENTARY (S) **2.05** LETHAL WEAPON (S) **2.55** EURONEWS

## Virgin Media One

**6.10 THE TONIGHT SHOW** 7.00 Ireland AM (S) **10.30** This Morning (S) **12.30** The Simpsons (S) **1.00** The Chase (S) **2.00** The Chase (S) **3.00** The Chase (S) **4.00** The Chase (S) **5.00** The Chase (S) **6.00** THE SIX O'CLOCK SHOW Chat show, featuring celebrity interviews, sampling food from leading chefs and guidance on a wide range of topics. (S) **7.00** THE MERMAID Priya Leeds pushed out by Alesha, and Harriet makes another disturbing discovery. (S) **7.30** CORONATION STREET Gary meets a friend while collecting debts. Chesney and Gemma's caravan holiday starts but gets derailed. (S) **8.00** NEWS AT 8 (S) **8.30** CORONATION STREET Gary fears Gary will be implicated in the roof sabotage. (S) **9.00** DOCTOR IN THE HOUSE Health professionals offer advice to Peter and Catherine in Cloncy, County Cork, who seek advice to help them change their eating and drinking habits. (S) **10.00** UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE HIGHLIGHTS Action from the concluding quarter-final second-leg ties, featuring FC Porto v Liverpool and Manchester City v Tottenham Hotspur. (S) **11.00** THE TONIGHT SHOW Matt Cooper and Ivan Yates give their take on the day's stories with a panel of guests from the worlds of politics, comedy and sport. (S) **12.00** THE MOORSIDE **1.15** TRAUMA 2.15 CLOSE **5.25** THE SIX O'CLOCK SHOW

## Virgin Media Two

**7.20** Big Star's Little Star 8.20 Tipping Point 9.20 The Simpsons (S) **10.30** The Simpsons (S) **11.30** The Simpsons (S) **12.30** The Simpsons (S) **1.00** The Simpsons (S) **2.00** The Simpsons (S) **3.00** The Simpsons (S) **4.00** The Simpsons (S) **5.00** The Simpsons (S) **6.00** The Simpsons (S) **7.00** The Simpsons (S) **8.00** The Simpsons (S) **9.00** The Simpsons (S) **10.00** The Simpsons (S) **11.00** The Simpsons (S) **12.00** The Simpsons (S) **1.00** The Simpsons (S) **2.00** The Simpsons (S) **3.00** The Simpsons (S) **4.00** The Simpsons (S) **5.00** The Simpsons (S) **6.00** The Simpsons (S) **7.00** The Simpsons (S) **8.00** The Simpsons (S) **9.00** The Simpsons (S) **10.00** The Simpsons (S) **11.00** The Simpsons (S) **12.00** The Simpsons (S) **1.00** The Simpsons (S) **2.00** The Simpsons (S) **3.00** The Simpsons (S) **4.00** The Simpsons (S) **5.00** The Simpsons (S) **6.00** The Simpsons (S) **7.00** The Simpsons (S) **8.00** The Simpsons (S) **9.00** 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# Farmer fails to prevent second trial

■ Safety prosecution for death of boy follows dangerous vehicle fine

Seán McCárthaigh

A Cork farmer whose defective tractor was responsible for the death of a boy has failed to stop a second prosecution being taken against him over the incident.

The High Court has ruled that the Health and Safety Authority (HSA) can proceed with a prosecution against George Ross, over the death of Michael 'Haulie' Murphy, at Knocknaculla, Killybeggs, Co Cork, on August 23, 2013.

The 14-year-old boy, who was the son of one of Mr Ross's employees, fell out through the door of the tractor, which was kept shut with plastic cable ties, as the lock was broken.

The ruling follows an application by Mr Ross, aged 67, of Connamore, Ballyhooley, Co Cork, for a judicial review of the decision by the HSA to initiate a prosecution against him in Cork Circuit Criminal Court, under the Safety Health and Welfare at Work Act 2005, on the grounds that the tractor was an unsafe place to work because of the defective door lock.

Mr Ross is challenging the proceedings because he was convicted and fined €700 by Malloy District Court in October 2014 under the Road Traffic Act for allowing to be driven a vehicle that was a danger to the public.

Mr Ross claimed he should not be prosecuted a second time for what is substantially the same offence. Lawyers for the farmer argued it was an abuse of process to be facing another trial, where the offences were on an ascending scale of gravity.

They also claimed that the trial for the workplace offence should have taken place at the same time as the other prosecution.

Mr Justice Michael Twomey said the road traffic offence was minor, while the other was a serious and indictable offence, where Mr

Ross could face trial by a jury, as it carried a maximum fine of €3m and a two-year prison sentence.

The judge said the difference between the two offences was highlighted by the fact that there was no requirement that any harm was actually caused to any person under the road traffic offence, unlike the offence under workplace legislation.

Mr Justice Twomey said the elements necessary to prove the two offences were not the same. He claimed the two charges were different in nature, in degree, and in moral turpitude.

The court noted that Mr Ross was aware, since mid-2015, that the HSA was conducting an investigation into the accident, as it had seized his tractor after his prosecution in Malloy District Court.

Mr Justice Twomey said the farmer should have known a prosecution was possible, if not probable.

"For this reason, Mr Ross should not have been surprised that the death of a young boy might lead, at a minimum, to further investigation and perhaps a charge," he added.

The judge said it was perhaps understandable why Mr Ross had sought to prohibit the HSA prosecution, which he regarded as a "second" trial, as the degree of the farmer's moral culpability for Michael's death was very different to other deaths that appeared before the courts.

Mr Justice Twomey said it would also have been preferable if the HSA proceedings could have been prosecuted more quickly.

Although Mr Ross should not have had the prospect of a trial hanging over him for four years, Mr Twomey said the power to prohibit a prosecution should only be used in exceptional circumstances and its use was not justified in the case before him.



## Sweet and cool

Siún Lundberg, 5, from Donabate, enjoying a HB Hazelbrook Farm ice cream in Tigers Childcare, Blanchardstown, at the launch of the 2019 HB Fundays campaign in aid of Down Syndrome Ireland, supported by celebrity chef Rachel Allen.

Picture: Sasko Lazarov

## CCTV may identify Ellis's Yard mass-dumping culprits

Eoin English

An investigation is underway after dozens of bags of rubbish were discarded on the road outside a notorious illegal dump site in Cork city. The site underwent a massive clean-up just weeks ago.

It is hoped that a CCTV system, installed as part of the week-long clean-up of Ellis's Yard, in Ballyvolane, in February, will help identify the culprits.

Several dozen bags of mostly domestic waste were found dumped all over the road between the Ellis's Yard site and the adjoining Spring Lane halting site on Monday.

It is believed the dumping occurred sometime between 8.30pm and 10pm.

City council officials were alerted and council workers were dispatched at first light yesterday morning to remove the material.

It took a team of workers and two vans to clear and remove some 70 bags of rubbish and a mattress.

Council staff have now been instructed to sift through the bagged material for possible evidential material that could lead to the identification of the waste producer or those who dumped it.

Fiann Fáil councillor Ken O'Flynn praised the council for the swift response and he condemned those responsible for the dumping.

He said such was the volume of material on the road on Monday night that it was



Rubbish piled up outside Ellis's Yard yesterday morning.

almost impassable for a period, and that a path had to be cleared to allow vehicles to pass safely.

He said: "I would hope that the CCTV system in the area will lead to the identification of those involved in this incident and that it will lead to a full prosecution of those responsible, to the fullest extent possible."

An estimated 200 tonnes of illegally dumped rubbish was removed from the city council-owned Ellis's Yard site during a massive week-long clean-up operation last February. Asbestos was among the wide range of material dumped on the site.

A caravan, stuffed full of bags of rubbish, was rolled down an exposed embankment into the site overnight, mid-way through the clean-up. It was also removed.

A trawl through the material has led to the identification of several individuals, who are now facing prosecution.

The yard has been plagued with illegal dumping on an industrial scale over the years, with clean-ups costing €570,000 and firefighters called to almost 100 fires there last year alone.

The site is zoned for traveller accommodation in the 2015-2021 City Development Plan and there have been several calls for the council to prepare a long-term strategic plan to guide its future development.

The site is next to the council's overcrowded Spring Lane halting site, where living conditions have been described as appalling. The site, designed for fewer than a dozen families, is currently home to more than 30, many of whom live on an authorised extension of the site.

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Cloghroe, Co. Cork.  
Tel. 021 4382244

**Walsh's Allcare Pharmacy**  
Unit 4 Blarney Shopping Centre, Blarney, Cork.  
Tel. 021-4381223

## Red panda finds a mate thanks to dating agency

**England:** Newquay Zoo's male red panda Germaine has found a mate after being paired up by an international zoological "dating agency".

Female red panda Zou, aged eight, was found through the International Studbook, which keeps detailed records of animals. Zoos use the records to make sure the mates are genetically suitable, with no danger of in-breeding.

**Naughty name**  
**USA:** The US Supreme Court's nine justices have discussed a trademark case involving a Los Angeles-based fashion brand spelled F.U.C.T.

However, the justices got through about an hour of arguments without saying the brand's name. The case has to do with a portion of federal law that says officials should not register trademarks that are "scandalous" or "immoral".

Officials have refused to register the brand's name as a result.

A lawyer for the brand argued that portion of law should be struck down as an unconstitutional restriction on speech.

Some of the justices had creative ways of not saying the name. Chief Justice John Roberts described it as the "vulgar word at the heart of the case".

**Mobile phone boxes**  
**England:** Discussed phone boxes have been transformed to provide 4G mobile connections for beachgoers in Cornwall who have long struggled with little coverage.

Visitors to Polzeath and Sennen Cove will be able to benefit from faster mobile internet and improved voice call reception service when

## A world apart...

They are within a 200m radius of Vodafone's 4G phone boxes.

Mobile coverage remains a problem for remote and central areas of the UK, due to challenging land surfaces and lack of fibre cables needed to link up masts.

**Kitten fishing**  
**Wales:** Four stricken kittens have been rescued from a small gap between a wall and a conservatory with a child's fishing net.

The two ginger and two black-and-white kittens had been stuck in Llanyrafon, Cwmbran, for at least 24 hours before residents in Liswerry Drive called Cats Protection's Gwent Branch for help after spotting the trapped felines.

Volunteers from the charity taped a £1.79 child's fishing net to a broom handle and balanced on a step ladder.

It took them half an hour to scoop each of the kittens out of the gap.

No mother or owner was found, so they will now be hand-reared by Cats Protection volunteers and rehomed once old enough.

**Centenarian yogi**  
**USA:** A 100-year-old yoga instructor says he has no plans to stop practising and teaching.

Tao Porchon-Lynch first encountered the ancient practice of yoga at the age of seven on a beach in India, where she was born. She now works in Hartsdale, a

northern suburb of New York City.

Porchon-Lynch says her mission is to teach people how to breathe right. Earlier this year, Indian prime minister Narendra Modi awarded her the prestigious Padma Shri Award for exceptional achievement.

Despite four hip replacements, she also does ballroom dancing at a Fred Astaire Dance Studio and has been on the television show *America's Got Talent*.

**Big swim**  
**Thailand:** A dog found swimming more than 220km from shore by workers on an oil rig crew in the Gulf of Thailand has been returned safely to land.

A worker on the oil rig

belonging to Chevron Thailand Exploration and Production, Vitsak Payalaw, said on his Facebook page that the dog was seen swimming toward the platform.

The crew managed to rescue the dog by putting a rope around its neck and hauling it up.

He said the crew speculated it might have fallen off a fishing trawler, and dubbed him Boon Rod, or Survivor in Thai.

The dog landed at the southern port of Songkhla and was declared in good shape after being delivered to an animal protection group.

**Naked chase**  
**USA:** Authorities say three women who were applying suntan lotion publicly in the

nude at a Florida rest stop led police on a 34km chase, drove a car at a deputy and threatened another deputy with a bat.

The Florida Highway Patrol says when a deputy approached the women in Dade City, they started dressing.

They said they had been staying at a relative's home but went to the rest stop after an altercation and had nowhere else to go. The Tampa Bay Times reports the women claimed they were "air drying" after washing up.

The women then fled in a car. The three ultimately were caught. They've been charged with aggravated assault on a law enforcement officer, resisting arrest, fleeing to elude and indecent exposure.

## Keep the cold out



Frost candles burn between cherry trees in Baar, Switzerland, yesterday. Heat candles prevent the cherry blossom from being destroyed by cold.

Picture: Alexandra Wey/Keystone/AP